



# Transfer Exploration Guide

## Choosing a College That's Right for You

### Begin by thinking about what's important for you

Every student is different, so choosing a college is all about what you need. By exploring your college options, you'll find the campuses that are the best fit for you.

Did you know? There are many different types of colleges:

- Public colleges
- Private colleges
  - Non-profit / For-profit
- Research institutions
- Liberal Arts colleges
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- And more!

### Narrow down your list and review application processes

As you research colleges, decide if they meet your needs. Use the worksheet on the backside of this document to help!

- Make sure your list includes "backup" or "safe" schools. These are campuses that you are likely to get accepted to. (i.e. non-impacted campuses/programs).

**Research the application requirements:**

- When is the application due?
- How do you submit an application?
- What is required? (i.e. letter of recommendation, portfolio, resume, transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, etc.)

#### *Counselor Tip:*

Choosing a college should go beyond looking at rankings of a campus. Many schools are great... but are they a great choice for you?

### Start researching colleges and universities

**Do your homework! Here's ways you can learn more about colleges:**

- Review their websites
- Take a campus tour independently or with the OCC Transfer Center
  - Some campuses offer virtual tours!
- Talk to alumni, current students, or faculty
- Attend an OCC college fair
- Understand the transfer requirements by meeting with an OCC counselor or a campus representative

**Paying for College:** Don't forget to consider the cost of the colleges you are interested in. One resource is iGrad which is available to all OCC students. There is a helpful course titled "Choosing a School and Understanding Cost."

**Make a *free* account at:**

[www.iGrad.com](http://www.iGrad.com)



# Let's Explore!



**Step 1:** In the top row, make a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.

**Step 2:** Think about the factors you want a college to have (i.e. large campus, driving distance from home, has a football team). Then rank them under “Level of Importance.”

**Step 3:** Time to do some research! Using campus websites, tours, or representatives, begin to explore each college that you’re interested in. Do they offer what you’re looking for?

| Level of Importance | Factors to Consider   | Colleges (List up to 4 that interest you*) |  |  |  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
|                     |   |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Program of study:</b> Which programs/majors does the college offer to help you achieve your career goals?  |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>School size:</b> Would you prefer a large or small school? What is the student population?   |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Class size:</b> How large do you like your classes to be? What is the student-to-teacher ratio?  |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Support programs:</b> Which programs does the college offer to help you stay in school and graduate? (ex. EOP, Guardian Scholars, DSPS)                    |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>City and neighborhood:</b> Do you prefer a city or a small town? Rural, urban, or suburban?  |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Campus culture:</b> When visiting each college, get a feel for its “personality.” How or why does it match yours?  |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Distance from home:</b> How close do you want to live to your family?  |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Extracurricular activities:</b> Are there activities in your life that you can’t live without?   |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Religious affiliation:</b> Do you want to attend a college affiliated with your religious beliefs?   |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Net Price:</b> While one college may appear to be less expensive, what will your final cost be after receiving grants and scholarships?                    |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Financial aid options:</b> Does the college have special financial aid options? (ex. payment plans, reduced cost of out of state tuition).                 |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Outside learning options:</b> Does the college offer internships, externships, study abroad or service learning opportunities?                             |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Housing options near campus:</b> How close or far is housing? Will you need a car, or are where you live, shop and work within walking or biking distance? |  |  |  |  |
|                     | <b>Other:</b>   |  |  |  |  |

\*Need more room? Make copies of this sheet!