

Break it down

- 1** **Make a "must haves" list of the top qualities** you want from a college. Big or small? Far from home or manageably close? How do you like to learn (hands-on, big lecture hall, etc.) and how does that fit with a college's educational approach? Does it have your major or related majors/minors? What is the job placement rate for recent grads?
- 2** **Make a "bonus list" of qualities that would be nice to have**, but not necessary, like free laundry, fitness center, intramural sports, special interest clubs, or on-campus parking.
- 3** **Assign a numerical score**, like a grade, ranging from 1 to 5 stars for each quality that is important to you, with 1 being the lowest score and 5 the highest.

Get the stats

Dig in to reputable, unbiased online resources like The Princeton Review, Naviance, Hobsons, or Petersons to **get stats, rankings, and details** about how your top colleges rank. Plus, check out the social media feeds of your top pick colleges.

    @nazarethuniversity

Experience it for yourself

Visit the college in person and get a feel for what campus is really like – the people, the vibe, the courses, the degree programs, the culture. Nothing can replace the experience of spending time on campus yourself. Schedule a visit to Nazareth at naz.edu/visit.

Reach out to alumni

Talk to people you know who went to college at your top picks. Ask them about their education and how they felt it prepared them to begin their careers. Talk to your guidance counselor or your favorite teachers about their perspectives on your top pick colleges.

Be an independent thinker, trust your intuition, and take a deep breath

Take what you've learned from all of your research and **think carefully about your goals, your strengths, your hopes, and your aspirations.** It's okay if you don't have all the answers right now. This whole exercise is meant to help you feel less stressed about a very important decision for you.

Consider how the college scored on your comparison worksheet as well as how you felt when you visited campus.

Ask yourself: Can this university take me where I want to go? Can this college help me figure out the best path forward from where I am right now? Is this a place where people will help me through the challenges along the way?

Need help along the way?

Admissions counselors can help with questions and guidance as you venture out to find the best path for you. Contact our team: admissions@naz.edu • naz.edu/admissions • 585-389-2860