School Sort Worksheet

School Sort describes ten categories that are important in choosing a college. Within these categories, you select characteristics that are important to you. School Sort creates a list of schools for you to explore further.

When you begin, no schools are on your list. As you select characteristics, matching schools appear on your list. You can print your school list, get more information for any school on your list, and review and change your selection criteria.

School Sort’s ten categories and their selection characteristics are listed on the following pages. Read each statement and think about responses that you will make. Put a check mark (✔) in the circle (❍) next to your answers, or write your answers on the blank lines provided.

Item 1  What do you plan to study in college?
CIS describes more than 600 programs of study. In School Sort you can view the list of programs of study by program area or alphabetically by title. For now, write down some programs that interest you, or ask your site coordinator for a list of programs.

If you do not have a field or program of study in mind, skip this item.

NOTE: If you select two or more programs, a dialog window will open, giving you a choice. You will be able to include schools that offer both of the programs you select (all programs if you select more than two) by choosing the AND mode. You will be able to include schools that offer any of the programs you select by choosing the OR mode.

Item 2  What degree do you plan to pursue now?
People planning to enter college for the first time should select Associate degree or Bachelor’s degree. Those interested in graduate or professional degrees might select Master’s degree, Doctorate degree, or both Master’s and Doctorate degrees.

❍ Associate (about 2 years for full-time students)
❍ Bachelor’s (about 4 years for full-time students)
❍ Master’s (about 5 years; in most cases, master’s degree students already have a bachelor’s degree)
❍ Doctorate (over 6 years; in many cases, doctoral degree candidates already have a master’s degree)

If you are open to any length of study, skip this item for now. After you get a list of schools that match your other criteria, sort on this item to see which schools offer each degree option.

NOTE: If two or more degrees are selected, a dialog window will open, giving you a choice. You will be able to include schools that offer both of the degrees you select (all degrees if you select more than two) by choosing the AND mode. You will be able to include schools that offer any of the degrees you select by choosing the OR mode.

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**Item 3  Where would you like to study?**
You may select one or more of the regions listed or one or more states. If location of school is important to you, select from these regions:

- New England
- Gulf
- Mid-Atlantic
- Mountain
- South-Atlantic
- Pacific
- Great Lakes
- Territories
- Plains

If you would rather choose by state than by region, list the states where you would consider attending school. You will be able to select specific states in School Sort. You can record those states here:

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

If location is not important to you, skip this item.

**Item 4  Are you interested in public or private schools?**
Some people want to attend a public (federal, state, or city-supported) school. Some prefer private (independent) schools with no religious affiliation. Others prefer private schools sponsored by or affiliated with a certain religious group or having a nondenominational or interdenominational religious orientation.

- Public (publicly-supported institutions)
- Private (independent institutions with no religious affiliation)
- Private with Religious Affiliation:
  - Baptist
  - Nazarene
  - Catholic
  - Pentecostal
  - Episcopalian
  - Presbyterian
  - Jewish
  - Seventh-Day Adventist
  - Lutheran
  - Interdenominational
  - Methodist
  - Nondenominational
  - Mormon
  - Other Religious Affiliation

Some schools with religious affiliation require students to take religious classes or to attend chapel or other religious services; some do not.

If type of school is not important to you, skip this item.

**Item 5  In which setting do you want to go to school?**
If the school setting is important to you, select one or more of the settings listed.

- Urban area (in a major city)
- Suburban area (within commuting distance of a major city)
- Small town—rural area (in a town not within commuting distance of a major city)

If the setting of the school is not important to you, skip this item.

**NOTE:** About fifteen percent of the schools in the database do not provide information on school setting. Those schools will be omitted from your list if you select any response for this item.
Item 6  How big do you want the school to be?
Please select the size of school you wish to attend. You may select one response or several.
❍ Fewer than 500 students
❍ 500 to 1,999 students
❍ 2,000 to 4,999 students
❍ 5,000 to 9,999 students
❍ 10,000 to 14,999 students
❍ 15,000 to 19,999 students
❍ 20,000 or more students
If the size of the school is not important to you, skip this item.

Item 7  How selective do you want the school to be?
Some people want the most academically selective program they can qualify for, others seek more
variety or are looking for other qualities in their colleges. With this item you can identify schools
with different types of student bodies.
❍ Open Admissions (schools that are open to people regardless of their high school grades)
❍ Minimally Difficult (schools that usually expect average or better high school grades but accept
some freshmen with lower grades)
❍ Moderately Difficult (schools that take freshmen mostly from the upper half of their high school
classes)
❍ Very Difficult (schools that accept freshmen from the top half of their high school classes with
many from the top 10 percent)
❍ Most Difficult (schools that accept freshmen mostly from the top 10 percent of their high
school classes)
Colleges will review your application to see if you are likely to succeed at their school. They may
consider educational goals, references, test scores, and achievements other than high school grades.
If you have been out of school for awhile, if you are a transfer or graduate student, or if you might
qualify for a special admissions program, your high school grades may not be considered very
much.
If admissions requirements are not important to you, skip this item.

Item 8  How much could you pay the school each year?
Keep in mind that books, transportation, and living expenses would be extra. Select maximum
tuition and fees you will be willing to pay:
❍ Less than $3,000       ❍ Less than $11,000
❍ Less than $5,000       ❍ Less than $13,000
❍ Less than $7,000       ❍ Less than $15,000
❍ Less than $9,000       ❍ $15,000 or more
Financial aid can help pay for tuition or can make up the difference between low cost and high cost
schools. If you might be eligible for financial aid, skip this item for now.
Item 9  **What financial aid programs are important to you?**

Many schools offer financial aid to help students and their parents with college expenses. Some college-sponsored scholarships are based primarily on financial need, some are based primarily on academic achievement, and some are based on athletic ability. If college-sponsored financial aid is important to you select the category or categories that match your academic and athletic abilities and your financial need.

You can select more than one category.

- Need-based Financial aid
- Academic Scholarships (not primarily need-based)
- Athletic Scholarships for Women (School Sort lists 30 specific sports for which scholarships are offered to men)
- Athletic Scholarships for Men (School Sort lists 30 specific sports for which scholarships are offered to women)

*NOTE: These college-sponsored scholarships are in addition to the federal financial aid programs.*

If college-sponsored financial aid is not important to you, skip this item.

Item 10  **What special programs are important to you?**

Some schools offer programs and services that meet the needs of certain groups of students. Select items from this section only if these programs or services are very important to you.

You can select more than one option.

- Study Abroad Program
- Honors Program
- Services for Learning Disabled Students (special services for undergraduates with learning disabilities as defined by the federal government in The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- Military Officer Training (ROTC)
- Air Force ROTC
- Army ROTC
- Naval ROTC