

Section IV: How to help your child choose the right college

Choosing the right type of college or university is a very important step in the process of getting an education. There are many different types of colleges and universities, both private and public. Choosing a college involves looking at size, location, and the types of degrees they offer, and deciding which institution fits better with the student's goals, personality, academic preparation, and financial ability. In addition, it is important to remember that there usually is a significant difference in the cost of in-state versus out-of-state tuition. Ask the following questions:

1. Do the programs offered by the institution match the interests of the student?
2. Will the student's SAT scores and high-school grades match the school's requirements?
3. What about cost? Is the financial aid package sufficient to make it affordable?
4. What about location? Is the school too far from home? Too close? In state? Out of state?
5. How large is the school? Some students do better when they attend smaller schools that can give more individualized attention.

Helping your child choose from the more than 3000 colleges and universities that exist in the United States is an important job for you as the parent. Additional information about this process is available in Spanish from the College Board at <http://www.collegeboard.com/padres/buscar/>.