

Put Colleges to the Test:

Checklist of Questions to Ask about Colleges You're Considering

General	
Is the school public or private?	
If private, is the school non-profit or for-profit?	
Is the school accredited? If so, by what accrediting agency?	
Are there any limitations on the transferability of credits earned at this school?	
Where is the school located?	
Is campus housing provided?	
Is there a Guardian or Renaissance Scholars type program?	
Have you looked at the school catalog?	
Have you reviewed the school performance factsheet?	
<i>Where to find this information:</i>	

Student Outcomes	
What is the school's graduation or completion rate?	
What is the school's cohort default rate?	
What is the average salary of graduates?	
What is the exam passage rate? (if applicable)	
What is the job placement rate? (if applicable)	
What is the average debt at graduation?	
<i>Where to find this information:</i>	

\$\$ Financial Considerations \$\$

What is the total cost (fees, tuition, books)?	
What are housing costs?	
What is the total cost of the program?	
Are scholarships available? How much?	
Are grants available? How much?	
Is federal work-study financial aid available? How much?	
Will you have to take out federal loans? How much?	
Will you need to take out private loans (such as loans from the school)? How much?	
What are the interest rates on the loans?	
When would repayment on the loans start, and what would your monthly payment be?	
Do the loans have provisions for forbearance and / or deferral?	
<i>Where to find this information:</i>	

Enrollment Contract (if applicable)

Does the enrollment contract include the total cost of the program in which you are enrolling?	
Does the enrollment contract include information on the school's refund policy?	
Does the enrollment contract include information on transferability of credits?	
Does the enrollment contract include information on the length of the program?	
Do you understand the complaint procedure?	
Is there an arbitration clause in the contract or in any of the paperwork you have been asked to sign?	
<i>Where to find this information:</i>	