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College Evaluation

The college evaluation procedure is a simple but effective method for evaluating the pros and cons of the various colleges you are considering. Using this form as you make your college visits should solidify your thoughts and feelings about the critical factors you have identified and about any other specific considerations important to you. The discussion of the details of your college evaluation sheet with an informed and interested person can do much to help you clarify your thinking and determine your priorities when selecting your “*best fit*” colleges.

Directions

1. Fill in the top of the College Evaluation Sheet with the colleges you are planning to visit. If you are planning to visit more than three colleges, duplicate this form before you go.
2. Under the heading “Comments,” indicate briefly your thoughts as to how each college measures up against each factor; i.e., will it provide what you want or not. If you find that you are uncertain about a given item, make a note of the information you need to seek out.
3. Where applicable, under “Comments,” be sure to separate out your own (Self) needs, interests, etc., from those of family (Others). By doing so, you will have a fuller sense of the scope and significance of your decision.
4. Once you have recorded your comments on the factors for each college, go back over the factors and assign a rating to each. Decide first whether a given college represents a plus or a minus with regard to what you are looking for. Then assign each factor a specific value from +5 to -5. If you do not know enough to assign a value, enter a question mark.
5. As a final step, review all the colleges that you have charted and compare the relative values you have assigned, possibly in conversation with your college counselor, parent or peer. Look for conflicting comments or ratings. Be rigorous about what you do and don’t know about what each college offers, and make plans to fill in the gaps in your knowledge with questions and research.

College Evaluation

Critical Factors (Self/Others)	College _____		College _____		College _____	
	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments
Geographic Location						
Location (Urban, rural, small town)						
Size of School						
How big are freshman classes?						
Dorm Life						
Teaching Assistants (T.A.'s) or Professors						
Preferred Major						
Heterogeneous/Homogeneous Population						
Coed/Single Sex						

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Critical Factors (Self/Others)	College _____		College _____		College _____	
	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments
The Library						
Type of System Block Semester Quarter 4-1-4						
<u>Extracurricular Activities</u>						
Religious Activities						
Opportunity for Varsity/Intramural Sports						
My Sport						
Greeks						
What happens on a typical weekend?						

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Critical Factors (Self/Others)	College _____		College _____		College _____	
	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments
Parental Approval						
Cost						
Financial Aid						
What are colleges biggest weaknesses?						
Can I see myself as a student there?						
For four years?						

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