**How to Research Your Perfect University**

*(hint—there is more than one!)*

1. **Brainstorm what you want—or at least what you want now…**
2. Large student population,… medium student population or ……small student population
3. Close to home or far away? In-state or out? Specific part of US? Seasons?
4. Large city or small town—rural vs urban
5. Academic level. Selectivity and reputation
6. Majors offered
7. Cost
8. Social components – i.e. sororities/fraternities or library dominating the campus life
9. Housing options. On vs Off campus. Dining options
10. Extracurricular/Athletics
11. Internships and study abroad options
12. Proximity of other universities
13. **After you create this guide sheet, then you can actively engage in a search….**

Try to create a larger list that you can narrow down

Start with [College Navigator](https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)

Or [College Board Big Future](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search)

Or [US News College Rankings](https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings)

And if you know you want to do WUE here is a [list of participating schools](https://outofstatecollegefairs.org/w-u-e-four-year-universities/)

1. **When you have a list of at 10 schools—**

Create a word/excel doc and list your schools. Include the descriptive information that is important to you from your brainstorm list. Then “google search” the school and find the

“admissions rate”, “retention rate”, “admissions requirements” “ACT scores” “graduation rate”

For example….

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Retention % | Admiss. % | ACT | GPA | Grad. Rate | L or M pop size | ETC |
| Tulane U | 92% | 30.5% | 31 | 3.5 | 83% | M ( 13K) |  |
| U of Hawaii | 71% | 81% | 22-23 | 3.4 | 56% | M/L ( 18K) |  |