

## Help with college choices

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For many high school students, choosing the right college has always been a tough decision to make. There are so many questions to consider: What do I want to major in? Which colleges are known for my major? Do I want to go out of state or in state? Do I want to go to a large school or small school? What can I do to stand out of the crowd and get into the college I want?

As a rising sophomore in high school, I am finding that it is not too early to start answering the questions listed above. The hard part is where to begin.

The easiest place to start is the Internet. This place is also one of the hardest spots to find information. The problem that arises is that you are given an infinite number of websites to explore and not all of them will have the answers you are looking for. Some of the websites may even give the wrong information.

Through my own internet research, I have found three great websites to explore; they will give teens a great head start on knowledge of college. The first place to check out is [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), a website that feeds high school students and any other people going into college the information they need to get into college and how to choose the right college for them. The most useful part of this website is the College Matchmaker. It uses a series of questions to match you up with a school that fits your major, price range, size and location of where you might want to go to school. After I took my first College Matchmaker questionnaire I realized that the tuition my family was willing to pay was too low and I came up with "No Results". My family and I realized that college is a little more expensive than we thought. Another cool thing about [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) is that you can sign up to receive the Official SAT Question of the Day via e-mail. It is a great way of preparing for the SAT.

Another great college site to explore is [www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com). This website offers many articles that will help you prepare for college and survive college as well. The most helpful section that I found is the College Survival section. This section includes many helpful articles and tips from staying healthy in college to creating your own personal budget, to what you need to pack before you take that car-ride-trip to college.

A good website for financial assistance is [www.scholarshiphelp.org](http://www.scholarshiphelp.org). This website is a great site that gives you a lot of information on scholarships, how to get them, and what kinds of scholarships are out there. This website also navigates you to other websites that have a lot of information on other scholarships available.

Even though there is a lot of information on these websites, there are still some questions you may have. In that case, it is a good idea to talk to your school counselors and ask them the questions. When it comes to college, preparation is a must, even in your freshman year.