The process of choosing a college starts with a careful look at yourself, not with a list of colleges. It’s your own assessment of your interests, your attitudes, and your abilities that is central to finding a college.

Respond carefully to these questions about your educational attitudes, goals and perspectives. Be honest when answering each question; there are no "correct" responses. For each item, select the appropriate answer category—"very true," "sometimes true," "not sure" or "not true."

*Adapted from U.S. News & World Report’s* [*College Personality Quiz*](http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/right-school/choices/articles/2008/08/21/college-personality-quiz)

# College readiness & success

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Very true* | *Sometimes true* | | *Not sure* | *Not true* |
| My parents don’t have to remind me to do my homework. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| I feel I know myself pretty well. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| It’s not that important for me to look and act like my friends. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| I seldom get homesick when I’m away from home for a few days. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| I’m excited for my college years to begin. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| Going to college means growing, learning, changing: it isn’t just “the thing to do”. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| I’m pretty good at making decisions. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| I believe I know how to motivate myself to be successful in school. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | | ¨ 0 |
| **TOTAL =** |  | + | + | | + |

## What your score means

**25 - 48:** You are confident in both your decision to go to college and your ability to reach your goals. Your self-awareness will aid you in adjusting to college; you are comfortable with yourself which will enable you to make mature decisions in college. Because of your self-sufficiency, you may not need the "excitement" of a college in a large city since you will be able to generate activities for yourself even at an isolated college locale.

**0 - 24:** You may still be getting to know yourself and may need more structure to be most comfortable. You may feel more at home with a series of required classes; you may prefer a college with a range of planned activities and things to do. You might find it easier to acquire self-understanding and confidence at a smaller, more supportive college than at an enormous university. Some fears about college, leaving home and being independent are perfectly normal, so involve yourself in the planning and decision-making processes and you will feel more in control.

# Academics

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Very true* | *Sometimes true* | *Not sure* | *Not true* |
| School is fun. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I’m normally excited about the classes I am taking. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I do everything that needs to be done for most assignments. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| It is easy for me to identify my favorite class in school. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| If I don’t understand something in class, I typically feel comfortable asking my teacher a question. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| When I know the answer to a question in class, I raise my hand. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| Learning by discussion is more fun than learning by listening to a teacher lecture. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| Building good relationships with teachers is important to me. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| **TOTAL =** |  | + | + | + |

## What your score means

**31 - 48**: You enjoy learning and take an active approach to learning. You are not comfortable merely taking notes and regurgitating the teacher's lectures; you want to get involved. You will likely be most comfortable in colleges where professors are readily available and smaller class sizes mean more opportunities for discussions and seminars.

**18 - 32**: You may enjoy some of the social features of school more than the actual classes, teachers, and classroom information. You are interested and committed to learning, but may prefer to learn quietly and deliberately. Larger lecture-based classes at big schools might fit your needs.

**0 - 16**: You may not have enjoyed high school because the particular characteristics of your school may not have been right for you. Additionally, you may not have found school to be a successful academic experience, and your struggle with school may affect your attitude toward it. Consider what type of activities you enjoy outside of school and how you prefer to learn when selecting a college.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Very true* | *Sometimes true* | *Not sure* | *Not true* |
| I enjoy learning things on my own (and not just for a class). | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| My friends and I enjoy discussing concepts and ideas. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I like learning many different academic subjects. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I like teachers who discuss how academic subjects interrelate. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I enjoy reading. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I’m usually good at prioritizing my time to get my studying done. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| Writing essays and papers is relatively easy for me. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| My note-taking skills are good. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| **TOTAL =** |  | + | + | + |

## What your score means

**25 - 48**: You enjoy learning for the sake of learning on a wide variety of subjects. You are confident in your skills that will allow you to succeed academically in college. Look for academic challenges and colleges that will stimulate your mind.

**0 - 24**: You may not have yet been exposed to compelling topics, issues or ideas. You may not have had experiences that have excited you about learning. You may want to use college as a place to try classes or subjects with which you are unfamiliar. Look for colleges where extra assistance from professors and tutors is readily available.

# College purpose

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Very true* | *Sometimes true* | *Not sure* | *Not true* |
| I believe one of the most important reasons to go to college is to get a job. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I will enjoy college a lot more if I can see how my classes apply to real life. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I see college more as a time for preparing for a career than for discovering my intellectual interests. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| One of the prime reasons to go to college is to meet people who will help me get a job later in life. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| **TOTAL =** |  | + | + | + |

## What your score means

**13 - 24**: You look at college as a vehicle for vocational preparation for a specific career. As such, you will want to explore professionally-related majors and seek colleges where you will be able to keep "on track" toward meeting the needs of your chosen career.

**0 - 12**: You are open to the wide variety and extent of learning experiences that college may bring. You may see college as a time for experimenting with and testing a variety of ideas and career paths. You may want to explore traditional liberal arts colleges with many options in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.

# Social experiences

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Very true* | *Sometimes true* | *Not sure* | *Not true* |
| A college with a blend of studying and socializing is important to me (even if I’d need to sacrifice my grades a little bit to enjoy college). | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| There is more to college than going to class and doing homework. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| I am willing to study hard in college, but I also want time to be involved in activities and have time with my friends. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| As far as intelligence goes, I want the other students to be similar to me. | ¨ 6 | ¨ 4 | ¨ 1 | ¨ 0 |
| **TOTAL =** |  | + | + | + |

## What your score means

**13 - 24**: You place priority on both academics and extracurricular experiences, and you will want to choose a college where you will have a balanced life. You should consider colleges within which you are very likely to be similar academically to the majority of other students. Look carefully at the characteristics of students who enroll-what were their grade point averages? Test scores?

**0 - 12**: You place a higher priority on either academics or on social experiences. If you place high priority on academics alone, you may be comfortable at a college where most of your time will have to be devoted to academic pursuits. If you value social experiences highly, you will want to choose colleges where you are more likely to achieve easily-or where you are better prepared academically than the other students.

# Next step: Make a college list

Now that you’ve explored your preferences, use this information to create a list of college options that will fit your academic, social, financial and other needs. Get started at *oregongoestocollege.org/apply/list.*