

## College Search Assignment

There are two goals in this phase of your research:

- 1) Your goal is to identify THREE colleges or universities that offer the college major that would be needed to begin the career you researched in the previous phase of this project. AT LEAST TWO of the schools must be in the southeast region of the United States (NC to FL to TX to MO). At least ONE of these schools should be public school.
- 2) You will research to determine the entry admissions requirements of these three schools. Website research, direct contact with and admissions counselor, and research in a classroom reference text are ALL required in this phase.

1. Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and click on the tab at the top called "College Search." This is the College Board's search engine that will help you to narrow the list of schools that offer your chosen undergraduate degree program.

On the new page, log in under "My Organizer" (on the left of the page). Next, find the box named in the center labeled "Find Colleges" and click on "College Search."

Before you specify any criteria, you will notice that this site includes information on nearly 4,000 different colleges. Our job here is pare this list down to a more manageable number to research (about 6-8 will be a good goal).

Start by clicking on the tab labeled "Type of School" (found in the list to the left). Check the box next to "4-year college or university." There is no need to mark anything else on this window at this time.

Next return the left column and click on "Location." Look to the right of "Select U.S. Colleges by Region or State" and select "South" (you are *required* to do this to find your at least two colleges).

Next look back to the left column and select "Majors & Learning Environment" Look to the right of "Majors" (in green) and type in the specific degree major you would need to earn to pursue the career you wrote about in the last part of your career project. If you cannot find your specific major, you may select from the families of majors, just above. However, remember that the more you select, the larger your results list will be.

If your list of colleges has been reduced to 25 or fewer, you are close to your goal. Select some of the items from the list below column until you have reduced your list to fewer than TEN colleges:

- Sports & Activities
- Applying
- Diversity

You should avoid clicking anything under "Paying" unless your list is still very large. There are always scholarships available in some form.

When you have finished selecting (or de-selecting) your options, click again on "Close & See Results." You will be given an alphabetical list of all the colleges that fit your criteria. If your list seems too narrow (0-2 colleges), you can always go back to the left column and use the slider bars to indicate how important a particular item is to you. Again, you want to end up with no more than EIGHT schools to look over.

If you are signed in to your College Board account, go to the bottom left of the page to "Save Selections." You can also drag any of these schools to the bottom of the page to save them. Copy your narrowed list to a word-processing document. Don't forget to copy the web address and record the date you accessed the site.

2. Go to <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> . This is a college search engine that similar to the one found on the College Board website. On the left of the page, select "Use Map" and again choose "Southeast." Then click on "browse for Programs" and select your major. Under "Level of Award," select "Bachelor's," and under "Institution Type," select "4-year."

Click on "More Search Options" on the left side of the page to narrow your list further. (Notice that you have the option to select a college that is affiliated with a particular religion here).

When your list is pared down to five or fewer, copy it and paste it into your document. Copy the web address and record the date you accessed the site.

3. Other possible sites to visit:

- [www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org) . This is the website for the group Colleges That Change Lives. These liberal arts schools are characterized as having small teacher-student ratios, a great education, and dedicated alumni groups. While the price tags of these schools show them to be "minor Ivies," they typically have huge endowment funds that will pay for most of a qualified student's education. Most colleges on this list are private rather than public schools.
- <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges> This site used to be totally free and much easier to navigate. It still contains good lists of ranked schools. This may give you a good "reach school." However, you do not need to access the fee-based areas of this site for our research project.

4. You should select a TOTAL of THREE SCHOOLS from your list by Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> Narrow your larger lists by visiting some of the school's websites or YouTube channels. Later you will be asked to explain how you narrowed the list (For instance, What search criteria did you use? What on their website attracted you?).

Next, you will research their entry requirements (high school GPA (unweighted), preferred standardized test scores (ACT and SAT), high school course requirements, service and leadership preferences, and admission deadline) and costs. This information will be checked for a grade on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. For sources, you must explore the following three areas:

- a. IN CLASS, look for your colleges in Princeton Review's *Complete Book of Colleges* (found in the Guidance suite across the hall from our classroom). In particular, record information under "Admissions," including "Freshman Academic profile" and "Basis for Candidate Selection." You will have access to this book during class the week of the Sophomore Writing Assessment.
- b. AT HOME, go to each school's website and look for information under "Admissions" or "Entering Freshmen" or "Prospective Students." If given the opportunity, you may want to enter your email address to get on each school's radar.
- c. Send an e-mail to the admissions office at each school. Let them know that you are a high school sophomore who is researching admissions requirements for their school, especially looking for information not included on the school's website. Copy the text of your e-mail and save it in a document. Do the same for any response you get, along with the date you received it.