

Sage Target List Questionnaire

Make your “long list” based on the Sage Target List Questionnaire. Include as many schools as fit your needs. However, by the fall of your senior year, this list should be narrowed to a “short list” to which you plan to apply. Although there is no magic number for your “short list,” many students find 5 – 8 schools ideal.



1. SIZE

- Very small (under 2000)
- Medium-small (2000 – 5000)
- Medium-large (5000 – 20,000)
- Large (over 20,000)

2. TYPE OF AREA

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

3. DISTANCE FROM HOME

- Less than 1 hour
- 1 – 3 hours
- More than 3 hours

4. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

- Commuter (off campus options)
- Residential (on campus options)

5. COLLEGE SETTING

- Physical appearance/atmosphere of the college
- Buildings, green spaces, etc.
- Dorms – living conditions
- Food service
- Social life on campus
- Friendliness of student body
- Helpfulness of faculty/staff

6. STUDENT COMPOSITION

- Single-sex vs. coed
- Religious affiliation
- Students from a wide range of states and countries
- A campus with a good racial, ethnic mix of students
- Students with backgrounds either similar to or different than yours

7. COST

- In-state vs. out-of-state tuition
- Public vs. private tuition
- Financial aid and scholarship availability
- Affordability

8. ACADEMIC REPUTATION

- Academic rigor and pressures
- Competitiveness of student body
- Smaller teaching institution vs. larger research-based university
- Educational caliber of professors
- Prestige

9. MATCHING SCHOOL WITH YOUR ABILITY

- Do you match the freshman profile for GPA and SAT/ACT scores?
- What are your chances for acceptance?
- Do you consider this school a “reach” or a “safety” school?

10. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- What majors are offered?
- Is the school known for a particular academic discipline?
- How does the school counsel “undecided” students?
- Is there a clear path into graduate school?
- Does the school offer co-ops, internships or research opportunities with professors?
- What career services are available?
- Are classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?

11. EXTRAS

- Study abroad
- Greek life
- Club sports or recreation and fitness programs
- Intercollegiate sports teams
- Volunteer and community service opportunities
- Academic support services for special-needs