

## 5 CRITERIA TO SAY YES

<b>ACADEMIC</b>	<b>Opportunity to Advance My Knowledge</b>
Academic Program(s)	Will you grow academically through challenging courses and a major? Does the academic program (major) align with your genuine interests? Is there flexibility if you change your mind without needing to leave?
Supportive Learning	Will you be part of creative thinkers, unbiased and open-minded students, and faculty
Specialized Programs	Selective Majors, Honors Program, Performing Arts Majors
Access to Faculty	Do they keep regular office hours? Provide advice or assistance.
Academic Support Center	Open access or a fee? First-Year Experience Program? Supportive of learning needs
<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>Provides a Strong Social Environment</b>
Campus Life	Is the campus vibrant and alive, including weekends? Or does everyone go home?
Clubs and Organizations	Does the school offer a full complement of activities and clubs to get involved?
Diversity	What percentage of students are minorities, males, or females?
Community	Does the student body embrace individuality while functioning as one campus?
<b>PERSONAL</b>	<b>Will Meet My Personal Needs</b>
Location	Distance from home - not too far, but just enough.
Living Conditions	Dorms, dining, and general living. Is campus housing coed or single-sex, by floors or buildings? Is it guaranteed for 4YRS?
Campus Safety	What is the campus's safety record? Security at night and on weekends?
Student Diversity	Style, character, and beliefs. I see myself in a supportive environment.
Health and Wellness	Does the school accommodate special dietary and health needs? Fitness center
Athletic & Performing Arts	Competitive athletes, drama, theater, music, and dance. Intramural and club? If I can't continue in these areas, will I stay enrolled at this school?
<b>AFFORDABLE</b>	<b>Affordable</b>
Cost of Attendance	Have you calculated the difference between the sticker price and the net price?
Merit & Financial Aid	How many scholarships and need-based aid were you awarded?
Appeals	Is there room to "appeal" for more funds? Negotiate based on similar-caliber colleges?
Funding Gap	What are the differential funding gaps? Can they be met with a personal resource? Little loan debt per year?
<b>CAREER READINESS</b>	<b>Career Readiness Preparation</b>
Internships	Are there opportunities on and off-campus? Stipend - Credit?
Career Adviser	What is the advisor-to-student ratio?
Career Fairs	Does the school invite employers to meet students at the structured annual event?
Graduate School	What percentage of students go on to graduate school? Medical/Business/Law?
Career Placement	Is Career Services a proactive department? How many firms recruit on campus?



**If YOU CAN ANSWER YES TO ALL FIVE – IT’S A MATCH**