



Researching Colleges TipSheet

Ask the right questions. Best info at your fingertips.

We make it easy to find

- How difficult is it to change majors?
- The political leanings of a college
- Comparison of 4/6 year graduation rates
- Ratings for campus food

ObiCoach will guide you to the best resources to develop your college list:

- Go to the website of a college on your list. See a **virtual tour** on the website? Or, try touring via these websites: 1) <http://obi.coach/rc6> (a series of photos that you can explore in 360 degrees), and 2) <http://obi.coach/rc7> (short video of a school).
- Check out the **majors** at that school. How difficult is it to change majors? Do the classes look interesting to you? Do they have your back-up major if you change your mind? What are the general education requirements? Do you get automatic entry into your major or do you need to have a certain college GPA to be able to declare? Check out what kind of **research** and/or cutting edge technology they have there. What are the profs and students in your major researching? Does it look interesting to you?
- What are your passions . . . activities outside of the classroom? What do you want to make sure is part of your college experience? Look into their programs like **clubs, honors college** and **study abroad**?
- Look at **housing** options. Do most freshmen live on campus? Is housing guaranteed for 1,2, . . . 4 years? Is on-campus living required for XX years? Do students live in singles, doubles, triples? Single-sex living, or coed by room or by floor? Are there living learning communities?
- Go to the [Niche.com](http://niche.com) website and type in the college name. Look through the sections listed below.
 - o **Report Card:** Click on gray "View Full Report Card" for grades in various categories. Click on a category for more info, "[location](#)" to learn more about weather, access to restaurants, outdoor activities, etc.
 - o **College Rankings:** At bottom of this section, click on blue "See all College Rankings". *Note any high rankings*=strengths of that school or *very low rankings*=maybe something to look into, could be weakness of that school. For specific majors, such as "Best schools for chemistry", click on "ranking factors".
 - o **Academics:** Scroll down to the Academics box. Check out the [professors rating](#). Look at "% of students that say it is [easy to get the classes](#) that you want". Next, click on "Read More About Academics" to see the [graduation rate](#) and retention rate.
 - o **Students:** Read the poll info. Then click on "Read More About the Students" to see [political](#) leanings on campus, [ethnic breakdown](#).
 - o **Campus life** (click to open up): Scroll down for: [dorms](#), [food](#), how popular are [varsity sports](#), what are the favorite [campus events](#).
 - o **College Reviews:** see **comments from actual students** on their experiences. Read through a bunch of those. Click "categories" on left to find comments on specific areas like housing, academics or food.

**With so many college-related websites it can be overwhelming and difficult to find the information you really need. Let ObiCoach help. To learn about online resources for comparing different colleges, for seeing how your classmates fared when applying to a certain school, and for much more:

[Click Here](#) for our full free Guide on Digging Deep when Researching Colleges.

[Click Here](#) for complete ObiCoach "College Here I Come" program with tools and expert counsel.