**Exercise: Choosing the right College**

Choosing which college best suits you can be challenging. Whether deciding where you want to eventually apply or which college is right for you among those that have already accepted your application, ranking your desired factors can help you choose the right school for you.

If you’re narrowing your college options, consider using the exercise below to help you organize your preferences. While doing so, remember that just like people, priorities can change, so do your best to represent your current thinking without getting bogged down in trying to predict the future. You can always adjust your course in life if you need to.

**Note for 12th graders**: May 1 is a common deadline for college applicants to commit to where they want to attend.

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| **Your rank** (1 = most important) | **Factor your considering** | **Explanations of your preference** (optional) |
|  | Location and/or distance from home  |  |
|  | Campus life  |  |
|  | Cost  |  |
|  | Academic reputation  |  |
|  | Desired program of study  |  |
|  | Athletics and extracurriculars  |  |
|  | Campus facilities and amenities  |  |
|  | Safety  |  |
|  | Size  |  |
|  | Something else (explain) |  |