Factors to Consider When Choosing a College...

**COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS**
*Where is the college located (city, suburb, small town, rural setting)?*
*What is the surrounding community like?*
*Is the college public, private, church affiliated?*
*What is the current student enrollment?*
*What special or unique programs are offered?*
*Does the college have general education or courses distribution requirements? What are they?*
*Does the college have special programs for transfer students?*
*What is the academic calendar (semesters, quarters)?*

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**
- What high school courses are required?
- Are entrance exams required? Which ones? What scores are acceptable?
- Is a certain GPA or class rank required?
- Is there an early decision or early action plan?
- On what basis are applicants accepted?
- Are personal interviews or letters of recommendation required?
- Do certain majors have special requirements?
- What percent of applicants are accepted?
- Can admissions denials be appealed?
- What are the application filing dates?

**STUDENT POPULATION**
- Where do the majority of students come from?
- What is the ethnic breakdown?
- Do most students live on campus or commute?
- What types of student activities are there?
  Are there sororities or fraternities?
- What athletic programs are available?
- Is the community supportive of the college?
- Is housing available/guaranteed for freshmen? Is it available all four years?

**ACADEMICS**
- What is the average class size? Largest? Smallest?
- How many students in last year’s freshman class returned for their sophomore year?
- What was the average GPA for the freshman class?
- What is the procedure for student orientation, class placement and scheduling? Are classes guaranteed?
- How is a faculty advisor assigned to students?
- What services does the school offer for the student who is undecided about a major?
- Are there free services provided by the school, e.g. tutoring, career placement?
- How many students complete a degree? What are the most popular majors?
- Are students taught by full-time faculty, graduate assistants, or both?
- Is there an honors program? Qualifications?

**Cost and Financial Aid**
- What percent of students receive financial aid?
- What percent of students receive scholarships based on academic ability?
- What is the typical financial aid package like?
- What percent of those who apply for financial aid receive any?
- Will my financial aid be adjusted if my need increases?
- What are financial aid applicants notified of their awards?
- How long do they have to respond? Is there a tuition payment plan?
- Are there campus jobs available? Are there off-campus jobs as well?
- What are tuition costs? Room & Board? Other fees?
- Did costs increase from last year to this year?
- Is there a difference in the costs for in-state and out-of-state students?
- Are accepted students required to place deposits for tuition & housing? Are they refundable?
- When must accepted students decide whether they will attend?
- Are deposits required each year for returning students?

* Sources: MVHS Career Center, GoCollege.com, collegetoolkit.com