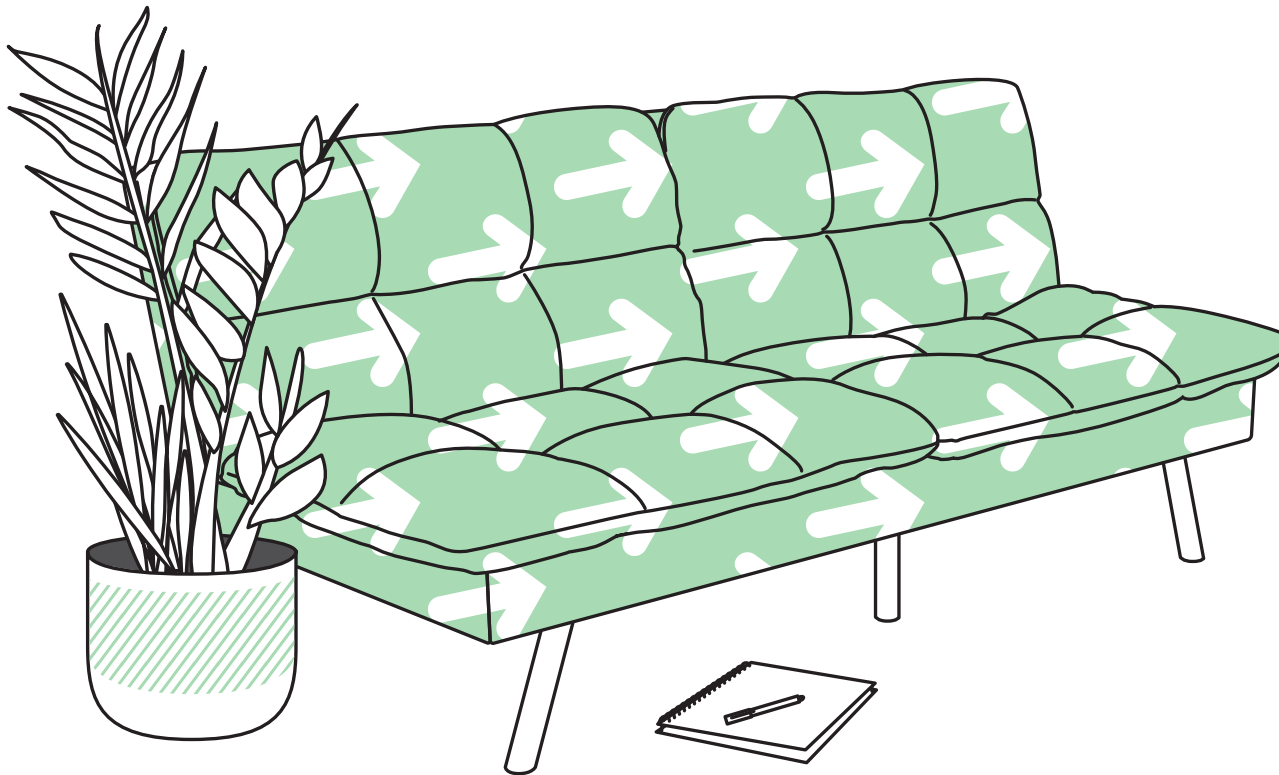


# College Search Toolkit

## The MOVING OFF THE COUCH Edition



### **THIS IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT COMES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.**

*Colleges are offering new ways for you to learn more about them online.*

*So get going with your search—virtually. And yes, there are in-person visit options, too, with more to open up in the months ahead.*

MINNESOTA  
PRIVATE  
COLLEGES

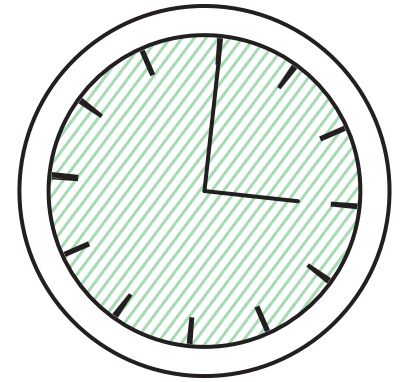
GET UP. GET STARTED.

# STEP 1

## DECIDE ON YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH TIMELINE

There are many helpful timelines to keep you on track in your college search process. Visit our website for links to a few of our favorites: [mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning).

But remember, college search plans are just suggestions and you should always adapt any plan or timeline to fit you and your family.



## MY COLLEGE SEARCH GOALS

SUMMER

FALL

WINTER

SPRING



# FINDING MY COLLEGE FIT

## STEP 2

### DO A LITTLE SELF-REFLECTION

To get a better idea of what is important to you in a college, ask yourself some questions or, if you're a parent of a high school student, ask your teen some questions to get your student thinking about what really matters.

Here are some questions to get you started; you can also visit our website for links to more resources:  
[www.mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning)



What are some things I do well?

What are some things that challenge me?

Do I learn best when I'm academically comfortable or academically challenged?

What are the classes I enjoy the most and why?

# FINDING MY COLLEGE FIT continued

If I could do any job for a day, what would it be?

In which type of college setting am I most/least comfortable?

How close to home do I want to be?



What sort of balance am I looking for between studying and having a social life?

Why do I want to go to college?

Are college athletics important to me and, if so, am I more interested in being a participant or spectator?



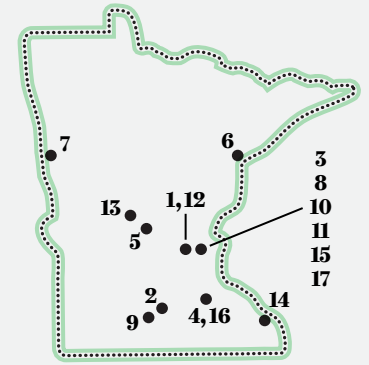
# STEP 3

## MAKE A LIST OF COLLEGES TO EXPLORE

Now that you have a better sense of what you're looking for in a college, it is time to start looking for schools that fit you academically, socially, and culturally.

Talk to friends, family members, teachers, coaches and guidance counselors to start compiling a list of schools to explore.

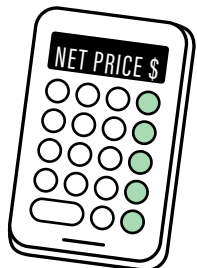
Just remember, there are a lot of great schools out there, but this is about you — what do you want in a college and which one will meet your goals.



While there are tons of colleges to look at, we encourage you to explore Minnesota private colleges...

- 1 Augsburg University
- 2 Bethany Lutheran College
- 3 Bethel University
- 4 Carleton College
- 5 College of Saint Benedict
- 6 The College of St. Scholastica
- 7 Concordia College, Moorhead
- 8 Concordia University, St. Paul
- 9 Gustavus Adolphus College
- 10 Hamline University
- 11 Macalester College
- 12 Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 13 Saint John's University
- 14 Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
- 15 St. Catherine University
- 16 St. Olaf College
- 17 University of St. Thomas

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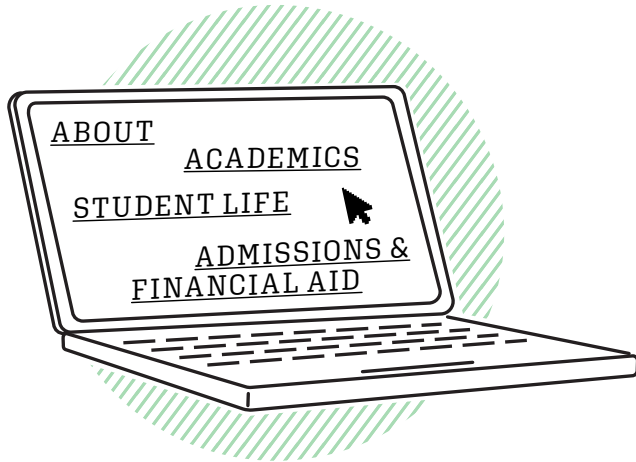
### **Don't rule out colleges because you think they may be too expensive.**

It is important to know that the listed or "sticker" prices are rarely what families pay. That's thanks to grants and scholarships—money students are not asked to pay back. So a college with a higher listed price could cost less than a college with a lower listed price. Want to get a better idea of what you might pay? Try out a college's net price calculator. You can find links to our colleges' calculators at [mnprivatecolleges.org/calculators](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/calculators).

## STEP 4

# NAVIGATE COLLEGE WEBSITES

With your list of colleges in hand, you are ready to start wading through college websites. College websites offer a wealth of information, but it helps to know where to go.



To answer your general questions about the school, the **“About”** section is a good start. To find out what programs of study they offer, visit **“Academics,”** and to find out what students do outside of class, visit **“Student Life.”** If you’re ready to find out more about applying or other information about enrolling, then check out the **“Admissions”** and **“Financial Aid”** pages.

## QUESTIONS TO ANSWER ABOUT EACH COLLEGE

**TIP:**  
Print a copy of these questions for each school you’re exploring. Or use a Google doc or spreadsheet to keep your answers in one place.

*How big (or small) is this school?*

*What jobs do graduates in that major now have?*

*What is the average class size?*

*Does the school offer any tutoring programs or have a writing center?*

*Do most students graduate on time? If not, why not?*

*What student clubs, organizations and athletics do they offer?*

*What does the college promote on social media and on the news pages?*

*How do students spend their free time, on and off campus?*

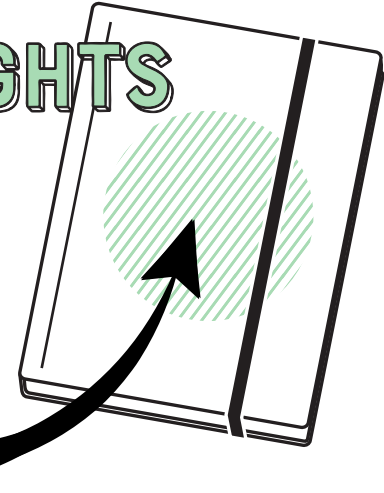
*Does it have the major or area I want to study?*

*Do students mostly live on campus or off campus?*

# STEP 5

## VISIT COLLEGES

# RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS



Keep track of what you're noting and thinking – whether it is a question triggered by an Instagram post to something you saw on the virtual or in-person tour.

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### START VIRTUALLY

Colleges are offering a variety of virtual options, including online self-guided tours (interactive, video, photo galleries) as well as virtual one-on-one visits with admissions staff or group virtual information sessions.

### CONTINUE IN PERSON

Small personalized in-person visits are already available at many private colleges. See what's becoming available by visiting college admission pages.

Links and more options are at [mnprivatecolleges.org/explore](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/explore)

### DIG DEEPER

- Talk to current students
- Learn more about profs in a field you are already passionate about
- Are there extracurricular activities, sports or fine arts you're interested in? Where are they happening, and can you find out more?
- Visit colleges' social media pages