

College questions

- **Location, Location, Location**
 - What area of the country/world would you want to go to after graduation? This can include college and trade schools. One thing to consider is, is this the part of the country that you want to stay in for an extended time after schooling is through. It will be easier to get internships and find jobs that are somewhat near to where you choose to go to college
 - Where you want to live after think about the area of the country it is. Is it near the type of weather that you want to be part of? Is this the type of place you could see yourself living in and staying near for a while? Are you close enough to family for your taste?
- **Do you want Faith as part of your Education**
 - Up to this point, faith has been at least a part of your weekly routine to some extent. It is easier to maintain that if the school you choose has services on campus that you can participate in. It also might be easier to find bible studies and other faith groups to continue growing this part of your life
- **Class Size**
 - Are you the type of person that likes more one on one time with your professor or just to blend in? Do you like having your teachers knowing you by name or isn't that a thing that matters that much to you? This is where the average class size and learning what classes are like throughout your time there are important to consider.
 - Knowing your professors. Is getting to know them as people outside the classroom and as a person important to you?
- **Private vs Public**
 - This can be a very big decision and there are a lot of things to consider. Before we jump into this too far, know that I went to a private school so I know a little more from doing that but I will do the best that I can to try showing both sides.
 - First, when comparing prices, make sure that you are comparing apples to apples. When looking at tuition, make sure they cover the same things. Sometimes a school's tuition does not include things like parking and student activity fees things of that nature. So when comparing the schools, make sure that the comparison is including similar things
 - Scholarships
 - Typically, private schools are more willing to have scholarships and different ways of helping to offset the cost. Again this is something that you will need to look into when calculating cost to make sure your comparing the same things.
 - Professors leaders in field/ Teaching Assistant /Graduate Assistant

- Ask who is teaching the classes. Do you want the professors or is it okay for you and your potential field to have people working on their advanced degrees to help with teaching the course.
 - Also, look at who the professors are. What did they get there advanced degrees in. What did they do there dissertation on? Are they leaders in the field? What are they working on currently and is this something that you would be interested in? Who are some of the current students or recent alumni and what are they doing based off the connections that they helped with?
- **What are you wanting to major in/things you're interested in**
 - How long to get your degree. This is an easy one to forget about. Ask how long it typically takes to get through the program. Depending on how school and how things set up, this can differ from school to school.
- **Post Collegian opportunities – (Jobs)**
 - Like stated earlier, is this an area that you would be interested in finding a job? Where have the recent graduates gotten jobs as in companies and location? Does the facility have connections to places to help get you jobs within difficult fields?
- **Travel abroad?**
 - Is Traveling and or studying abroad important or something that you want to do? If so, you might want to look at a campus that encourages that more. You could look at the percentage to students who participate in that type of program or the percentage of students who are coming from other countries to study at that school.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities**
 - Has music, sports or other activities been a major part of your life up to this point? Have you considered is this something that I want to continue doing and if so, see if there are ways you can continue doing this. Remember, you don't have to be part of an official group. Is there a culture of people getting together and doing that activity where you could join in?

My tips for college and early adulthood

- **Start early** – This is a large investment of your life and of cash. The more time you can put into this, the better off you will be in the future
- If you can, **tour a lot**. This gives you a taste of what of the campus is like. Remember you don't have to be official tours, it can be camps such as sports, music or theatre events.
- Take a **Personal Finance Course!** This will be extremely valuable for the rest of your life. Learning to manage your money is a super valuable skill!
- Remember this is setting up your adult life. The more time that you can put into thinking about and getting a rough idea of how you want to set yourself up for the

beginning of your adult life, the better. **It is okay to change your mind along the way!** The more thought that you have put into it to start with, then helps with if that change happens realizing that things weren't the way you thought they were and can give clarity about what you are actually wanting for your future.

- Try having a rough **plan** as you come out of college. Like you will find with many things in life, having a goal and a point of where God is guiding you is huge. Having a goal or a vision of where you are going, helps to guide your steps along the way.
- **Stay in touch** with loved ones. Keep in touch with family, close friends, people from school or church that were close. There is loads of advice that people are willing to share if asked along with support. These connections make a huge difference when the storms of life come (and they will come at some point).
- **Remember that you are Loved!** One of the best quotes that a close friend of mine said to me once is, "No one talks about how hard your 20's are!" You are figuring yourself out, often in new places, around new people, doing new things. All of these cause stress and are hard. Social Media doesn't often show that side of life much and everyone is going through it. Remember through this that God still loves you, and there are plenty of people who love and care about you when those trials come. We are all always a phone call away and are more than willing to listen.