

School Research Project (Faith-Based Schools)

Use the following sources listed below to find the answers the following questions. This information you find will help you to make the best decisions about the school you are considering pursuing and whether or not it is a good fit for you and your educational needs.

Sources:

- www.CaliforniaColleges.edu
- The School’s official catalog (*can be found in the Transfer Center – or a PDF version is often available on the school’s website*)
- The school’s official website
 - School’s “Institutional Research” department (*or similar name*) website (gives statistics on the institution)
 - Student recruitment pages (often listed as “Future/Prospective/Transfer Students”)
 - Admissions page – including admissions requirements
 - “About” page/ “Mission” “Values”, etc. pages
 - Academic department offices’ official website
 - Academic advisor (*maybe college counselor or faculty within the academic department*)
 - Schedule of Classes
 - Course Rotation Schedule - issued by academic department (*indicates how frequently the classes are offered*)
- www.Assist.org (find out what classes to transfer from the CC to the CSUs and UCs)
- Take a campus tour (*student-led or self-guided*)
- Call the office directly and ask.
- Campus Newspaper (often written by students in journalism classes) – (*gives a feel for current issues and students’ attitudes about the school*)
- Accreditation
 - Understanding accreditation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP3dqwqMWAI>
 - Verifying accreditation status: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

<u>GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION</u>	
What school am I researching?	
School name: _____	
Is this school:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a California public college or university <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ community college ○ CSU ○ UC • A private school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faith-based • An out of state, public school 	

<p>Type of School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State supported • Private • For-Profit • Not-for-Profit 	
<p>What is the “Mission Statement” of the school? <i>(Likely found on the “About page” of its website)</i></p>	
<p>List at least three things you found about its Mission, Values and/or Vision. What do you think of this information? Good/bad or?</p>	
<p>What city is this school located in?</p>	
<p>Is the college located in an urban, suburban or rural setting?</p>	
<p>How many students are enrolled in this school?</p>	
<p>How far away from my home is the campus? How much time does it take to get there from my home by car, by public transportation? Would I need to relocate or can I commute?</p>	
<p>Will I need a car to get around? Does public transportation (bus) provide easy access to the campus and community?</p>	
<p>Accreditation: Is the school regionally accredited? <i>(Does this school possess regional accreditation? If this school is in the Western US, then it should at least be accredited by WASC (or one of its chapters). You want to avoid schools NOT regionally-accredited.)</i></p>	
<p><u>ACADEMICS</u></p>	
<p>Is the school on the semester, quarter or other system? How many weeks per term? <i>(5 – 20 weeks per term is typical)</i></p>	
<p>Are tuition fees charged by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per unit • Full-time/Part-Time status • Per year • Per class • Other 	
<p>At what times of day are most campus classes offered? <i>(mornings only, afternoons, evenings only, weekends, all times of day and nights)</i></p>	
<p>What is the average class size? <i>(15 students vs. 1000 students per class?)</i></p>	

<p>Does the school have an honors program for students who enter with high grades? What are the requirements for participation? Does this apply to you?</p>	
<p align="center"><u>ACADEMICS – MY MAJOR</u></p> <p><i>Name of Major:</i> _____</p>	
<p>Does the school offer my major? What is the name of that major?</p>	
<p>Is my degree program accredited? By what agency and at what level? (Undergraduate and/or graduate, etc.)?</p>	
<p>How many students does my major typically have? (200, 5000, etc.)</p>	
<p>What classes will you need to take once you get there? (<i>Introduction, theory, research, skills-based, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>Will you be expected to carry a minimum or maximum number of units each term? (<i>i.e. 3 units, be a full-time student, complete 30 units a year, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>Will you be expected to complete all or part of your classes within a specified time frame? (<i>i.e. all degree-applicable classes must be completed with 10 years.</i>)</p>	
<p>What time of day are classes typically offered in your academic major (<i>mornings, afternoons, evenings, all times of day, etc.</i>) Will this create a scheduling conflict for me?</p>	
<p>How frequently are your major classes offered? (<i>Several sections per term, once a term, once every 2 years, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>Will you be part of a cohort group? (<i>The same students taking the same classes together throughout their time in the program.</i>) If yes, how many students are normally in a cohort group? If yes, how do you feel about this?</p>	
<p>Do you have the option of taking any or all classes online? If yes, how do you feel about this?</p>	
<p>If yes, what kinds of support services do they offer for online students? (<i>i.e. readiness quiz, help desk for technical issues, study skills classes for online students, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>Can you choose what classes you take each term, or will this be decided for you?</p>	

<p>Is the major overcrowded (<i>impacted – more applicants than they have room for</i>)? If so, what special or additional requirements do you need in order to be admitted?</p>	
<p>Is work experience required? – 1) As an admissions requirement? 2) As part of the curriculum? If yes, how much? What types of experiences are required? Will they help you get a job, or do you need to get it on your own?</p>	
<p>What other similar programs does the school offer which may support my goals/major choice?</p>	
<p><u>ADMISSIONS</u></p>	
<p>How many terms per year does this school accept admissions applications? (<i>i.e. “Only in the Fall”, “Fall and Spring”, “Every term”, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>How quickly can you begin taking classes (<i>i.e. within a few weeks, up to a year away, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p>Does my major have additional admissions requirements that are “over and above” the general admissions requirements for the school? (<i>I.e. higher GPA, additional math classes, entrance exams, personal statement/admissions essay, letters of recommendation, etc.</i>)</p>	
<p><u>GRADUATE STUDENTS</u> (<i>already possess a Bachelor’s Degree or higher</i>)</p>	
<p>What are the minimum entrance requirements? Will your bachelor’s degree be sufficient? Will you need to get a ‘Second Bach’ (second bachelor’s degree?) or second master’s degree (if doctoral-level program). Are there some specific pre-requisite classes you need to have? Do you have them? If not, where can you take them?</p>	
<p>If you are looking at a ‘Second Bach’, does this school admit students as second bachs? Not all schools do. What are the requirements to be admitted as a second bach? Will you still be qualified for financial aid? Is this a concern?</p>	
<p><u>STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS</u></p>	
<p>Statistics on student success (percentage of students who persist, transfer, graduate, ‘time to degree’, and/or get jobs after graduation, etc.).</p>	

<p><u>For High School Students:</u> Does this school accept AP (Advanced Placement) credit? What are the cut-off scores? Does this school require/accept SAT or other entrance exam scores? If so, what kind of scores are you likely going to need?</p>	
<p>Are test scores required or recommended for admission? If so, which test scores do they accept. (i.e. SAT, ACT, etc.) Are there minimum /recommended/ standard scores for admitted students?</p>	
<p>Will you be required/ expected to live on campus? If yes, see “HOUSING” section for more questions to ask.</p>	
<p><u>Transfer Students:</u> When do they accept transfer students? What are the transfer requirements?</p>	
<p>What lower division classes are required to prepare for admission to the school, and to your major? List the courses and use articulation agreements available in the Transfer Center to find equivalent courses. (Go to Assist.org to find this out – CSU or UC schools only.)</p>	
<p>What are the admission requirements for transfer students? (Minimum and maximum number of transferrable units, minimum GPA, number of G.E. classes need to be completed, specific and/or major-preparation classes that must be completed, etc.) Are there any other special requirements? Are admissions requirements based on: 1. <u>Objective standards</u> such as test scores, GPA, class standing only (most common in state schools). 2. <u>Subjective standards</u> such as admissions essay, references, life/work experience, community service, personal character and “whole picture of the person”? (More common in private and/or “highly selective” schools.)</p>	
<p><u>Diversity</u> Is there a special admission program for students from certain ethnic minority and other underrepresented groups? How can you qualify? What kinds of special help will be available to me after you enroll? Does this apply to you?</p>	

<p><u>For Older (over 25 years) Students:</u> Does this school and department/major offer transfer credit for prior learning and/or prior work experience?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If yes, how much credit do they give? 2. What is the minimum amount of work you need to do on their campus (<i>i.e. "In Residence" requirements</i>) to earn your degree there? 3. What do you need to do get your prior experiences officially accepted (<i>i.e. take a test, provide transcripts, letters, portfolios, etc.</i>)? <p>Note: These questions are usually most relevant to older students who have prior life, work and educational experiences.</p>	
<p>If this is a school which serves mostly traditional students (18-24), do they offer special housing units for older (25+) students? If yes, see "HOUSING" for additional questions.</p>	
<p><i>International/Non-Resident Students</i> What are the admission requirements for International students? (<i>Specific types of visas, transcripts evaluated, financial self-sufficiency, specific housing/residency requirements, medical insurance coverage, etc.</i>) <i>Check webpage for international students for answers to these questions.</i></p>	
<p>Minimum Education Requirements: What kind of education do you need to have to be eligible to apply? Is your foreign education equivalent to those minimum standards?</p>	
<p>Foreign transcripts: What are the requirements for foreign transcript evaluations? Do you need to have your foreign transcripts evaluated? Where can you get a list of approved evaluation companies? How will it cost? How long will the process take? http://www.naces.org/ - List of evaluation companies</p>	
<p>Deadlines: What are some key deadlines that need to be met? Application, transcripts, visas, fees, additional steps?</p>	
<p>Additional Fees: How much are the fees for international students. Note: Most schools charge higher fees. Do you have the means to pay the additional fees?</p>	

<p>English Proficiency: Will you need to provide test results, such as “Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)” that demonstrates your minimum English language skills and ability to learn in English? What are the minimum acceptable scores and deadlines for submitting them?</p>	
<p>English learners: Does the school offer optional support for students who need to improve their English skills? How much does this service cost? What is involved?</p>	
<p>Social Support: What kind of activities and programs does the school offer to help the students adapt to the school and to feel welcome?</p>	
<p>Work Experience: Will the program you are studying require you to get work experience while studying? What kind of limitations on your ability to work as an international student will you have? Will they help you with permit filings, etc. Do you have to get a job on your own? Will you be able to? How open is this industry to hiring international students due to permit limitations? Will you have the transportation to get to those jobs?</p>	
<p><u>FINANCIAL AID</u></p>	
<p>What kinds of financial assistance programs are available? (<i>i.e. Loans, Grants, Work Study, Scholarships, etc.</i>) Will it cover my entire need? NOTE: FAFSA is NOT a financial aid program – is an <u>application</u> for financial aid. (<i>So don't list FAFSA as an option</i>)</p>	
<p><u>STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES</u></p>	
<p>Are you concerned about getting a job near campus? If so, is it easy to get a part-time job on campus or in the community?</p>	
<p>How late are student support offices (<i>Admissions/ Records, Financial Aid, Counseling, etc.</i>) typically open during the day? Does the campus mostly shut down at 5pm? Will this create a scheduling conflict for you? Will you need to take time off work to take care of business?</p>	
<p>How late are campus support offices (<i>bookstore, food places, security/police, etc.</i>) typically open during the day? Does the campus mostly shut down at 5pm? Will this create a scheduling conflict for you?</p>	

<u>HOUSING</u>	
Does the school offer housing programs to its students? If so, what kind (dormitories, apartments, fraternity/sorority housing, etc.)	
Some schools require students to live on campus. Will you be required / expected to live on campus?	
Are you interested in campus housing options? If yes, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the costs? • Per year, month, semester, or other? • What are the eligibility requirements? • How many people per room/apartment? • Do you need to move out every term? • What kind of social activities do they offer? 	
<u>STUDENT LIFE</u>	
<i>Activities</i> What kinds of social, cultural and recreational activities are available on the campus and in the community? Are any of these of interest to you?	
<i>Athletics</i> Does this school have sports teams that you are interested in joining? If so, what are the requirements to join? Do they offer incentives for being an athlete? (Special admissions, priority registration, special financial aid, tutoring, and other academic support, etc.)	
<u>FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS</u>	
What is the religious affiliation of this school? Are there any church, denominational (sub-group) affiliations with this school?	
Is this school sponsored/backed by any particular church, denomination, or organization?	
Read their "Statement of Faith". Is there anything that stands out as being either appealing or cause for concern for you?	
As a student, are you required to hold their religious beliefs?	
If they don't require you to hold their religious beliefs to be a student there, will they require you to hold their religious beliefs to get a job on campus? If you wanted to get a job on campus, will this be a problem for you?	

What kind of (if any) religious classes will you be required to take? <i>(i.e. 30 units in bible)</i>	
What kind of religious activities are students expected to participate in? <i>(i.e. attend chapel 3 times a week)</i>	
Are there any behavior/character restrictions expected of their students? <i>(i.e. No drinking and smoking, dancing, etc.)</i>	
Look at their financial aid programs: Do they have any special programs that you could qualify for?	
What is your general response to the information you found.	

Reflection:

Why were you originally interested this school? _____

What new information about this school did you discover from this research? _____

What did you like the most about this school? _____

What did you like the least about this school? _____

After researching this institution, does it still sound appealing? Why or Why not? _____

Which criterion was most important in your choice? Why? _____

If you are planning on attending this school, what goals do you need to set to meet the admissions requirements?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Test your understanding:

What is the main point of this assignment?

Why were you expected to do this exercise?

What type of person would need to do this exercise?

How well do you fit the profile of the person for whom this assignment was created?

Reflection: (*Write down your response after completing this assignment.*)
