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# COMPARISON GUIDE FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU

## **MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION**

### **Determine your “must haves.”**

Think about the essential qualities you want out of the college experience. Consider cost, size, distance from home, course structure, top programs, educational philosophy, campus culture, faculty credentials, academic support services, etc.

### **Add your “bonus list.”**

This includes features that are not necessary but would be considered a plus. Student clubs, athletics, fitness center, free parking, free laundry, etc.

### **Do your research.**

Read reviews of the schools in which you are most interested and visit websites like U.S. News & World Report, Colleges of Distinction, Princeton Review, Times Higher Education and others for the latest stats and rankings. Checking out college social media pages is another great option.

### **Talk to alumni.**

One of the best ways to get an authentic picture of a school is connecting with former students. Make a list of questions, then explore alumni networks online and contact people who studied in programs you want to know more about.

### **Schedule a tour.**

Visiting college campuses before applying is strongly recommended. This way, you can see for yourself what the school is like, chat with current students and staff, and get a feel for the surrounding area.

### **Trust your gut.**

Oftentimes, intuition is your best guide. Think about which school gives you the best feeling or makes you most excited. Can you picture yourself thriving here for several years? College is a big investment, so be sure you have confidence in your choices when it's time to apply.

## **WHEN IN DOUBT, MAP IT OUT!**

### **Rate and compare.**

Create a score sheet, such as a 1-5 point system, for the colleges on your list. Score the different categories—location, cost, faculty, reviews, etc.—and see how the schools stack up against each other. This will help you weigh the pros and cons of each school as you make your final decision.

***The following chart is made to compare Hood College with other schools you are considering. Collect the data and compare before you make your decision.***

	HOOD COLLEGE	COLLEGE B	COLLEGE C	COLLEGE D
<b>LOCATION</b>	Scenic 50-acre campus located in the heart of historic Downtown Frederick; within an hour's drive of Baltimore and Washington, D.C. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>ENROLLMENT PROFILE</b>	1,217 undergraduate students, 878 graduate students. 11:1 undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio Average class size: 15 ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>DIVERSITY</b>	Students from 27 states and 15 countries. 40 percent student diversity rate. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>ACADEMICS</b>	30 undergraduate majors; 40+ minors; four pre-professional tracks. 19 graduate majors; 13 certificate programs; two doctoral programs. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	99 percent of the Class of 2022 found employment post-graduation. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>APPLICATION DEADLINES</b>	It is recommended that you apply prior to March 1; however, we evaluate applications submitted after March 1 on a space-available basis. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>ATHLETICS</b>	20+ NCAA Divion III varsity athletics programs that compete in the Middle Atlantic Conference, plus an Equestrian Club. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING</b>	High-impact practices are a built-in component of our core curriculum. The Career Center can help connect you with internship, fieldwork, student-faculty research, work study and/or study abroad opportunities. ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>CAMPUS VISIT RATING</b>	What is your overall impression after visiting campus? What stood out to you most? How many of your "must haves" does Hood College offer? ☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆	☆☆☆☆☆
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	★ Total:	★ Total:	★ Total:	★ Total: