

Find the right **Fit** and **Match** when choosing a college

FIT

A college is the right **FIT** if it has what it takes to make a student feel like they belong. Consider factors such as location, major, size, and student body.

Location & Size



In-State / Out-of-State: In-state residents can save a lot of money on tuition

- An in-state student saves an estimated \$19,170 annually at a NC 4-year university.
- By going in-state, you can stay closer to home and your established support network.



Community College / Four-Year College

- Community college usually costs significantly less than a four-year college, allowing students to save on the first two years of college.
- There are 58 community colleges in NC, so there is likely to be one closer to home, often allowing students to save on housing. You can take your general education classes there and still transfer to a four-year college for the remaining two years.



Urban / Rural: Remember, you will not spend all your time on campus

- Colleges located in a city may offer more to do and have more cultural experiences available in arts, food, and festivals.
- A rural setting may be quieter and closer knit, with the college as the focus of the town; and it is likely to have more outdoor-oriented activities.



Small / Large: The size of the college makes a difference in your experience

- Smaller colleges may afford better access to professors and a sense of community.
- Larger college may offer more degree choices, activities, clubs, and a varied student body.



Make sure to do a virtual tour on the college's website if you can't go in person. A campus tour will give you an inside look at what the facilities and student body are like. Picture life at the college and think about whether it will be one you enjoy.

Other fit questions to consider



Academic – Does the college offer the courses you need?

- Does the college have your major? What if you change your mind? Are there enough other options you are interested in?
- Do they have courses or activities that cater to your hobbies – writing, drawing, acting?



Interests – Does the school meet your social needs?

- Do you want a college with a winning sports program?
- Are you interested in a college with strong fraternities and sororities?



Sense of Belonging – Do you feel as though you belong?

- What kind of social setting are you looking for?
- Do you want a Historically Black College or University, other minority-serving institution, or a women's college?

MATCH

A student is the right **MATCH** if they have the academic performance that meets the college's requirements and expectations. Here are some questions to consider:



Qualifications

- Do you meet the minimum GPA?
- Do you have the minimum entrance exam scores?



Requirements

- Have you taken all the courses you need to be admitted?



Consider how you compare academically to the student body. Does your academic performance match? You want to make sure you are suitable challenged.

Explore college fit and match options with the college finder tool on [CFNC.org](https://www.cfnc.org). You can filter the results according to the type of school you're searching for.

