

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

### What Are You Looking For In A College?

1. **Size** (Circle the most appropriate phrase.):

A personal atmosphere is important/relatively unimportant to me.

I want to be a participant/more anonymous in my education.

I want my teachers to be easily accessible. Yes/No

I do/don't mind being taught by graduate students.

Smaller/larger classes are best.

Describe your feelings about college size: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Academic offerings:**

Most students aren't sure about what they want to study in college. They enter college "undecided" and explore their options during their college years. Does this describe your current state of mind?

Yes/Not Sure/No

Explain, if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a career goal in mind? Yes/Not Sure/No

Describe/explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Student body characteristics:**

Describe the types of students with whom you would enjoy going to school. List personal traits you hope to see in your classmates. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Location:**

a. Do you want to be close to home... or are you unsure?

Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Indicate any geographic areas that you particularly like. Try not to think of particular colleges within a given area, but rather places you would like to live. Why do you like these places? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Are there any particular areas of the country you'd like to avoid? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Do you prefer a rural (country), suburban (city outskirts), or urban (city) setting? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Academic challenge:**

Think about how much academic challenge is appropriate for you. Do you want a college where you must work hard and study hard, or would you prefer one where you could earn respectable grades without knocking yourself out? Do you truly enjoy talking about ideas and intellectual subjects? What is your response to academic pressure and to competition from other? Circle appropriate phrases from each column:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Intellectual/scholarly emphasis | a. Ready for the most vigorous academic environment               |
| b. Academic/social balance         | b. Prefer academics similar in challenge to Francis Parker School |
| c. Less academic, more social      | c. Prefer academics less challenging than Francis Parker School   |

**6. Cost/Financial Aid:**

Circle the statements that best describe your situation:

- a. Cost is a major factor in choosing a college.
- b. Cost is a minor factor.
- c. I will need to investigate financial aid options.
- d. Cost is not a significant factor; I may attend the best college for me regardless of cost.

Explain your cost concerns and describe communication you have had with your parents concerning college costs \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Activities available and other academic/curricular qualities:**

Study abroad options, independent study, ROTC, varsity, intramural or spectator sports. (Be specific about sport and level.) Would you like the option of joining a fraternity or sorority? Are you looking for theater, art or music involvements? Are there other clubs or organizations you would enjoy joining?

List any activities or interest below. Circle the activities which are very important in your college search. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. **Fitting in/being comfortable in college:**

If you were to visit a college tomorrow, what would you ask about or look for? Is campus beauty very important? What specific services would you like? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Are you sure that you want to go directly to college after Parker? If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What issues would you most like to discuss in your spring conference? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. **Your ideal college:**

Select the six most important factors for **you** when selecting a college and write a statement summarizing what you are looking for in a college. Mark the most important factor(s) with asterisks.\*

Examples:

- It is very important for me to have a balance between academics and social life. I don't want a pressure-cooker college!

- I prefer a college in the Mid-West because my grandparents live in that area.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

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