Selecting Your Perfect Universities
Definition of “Your Perfect Universities”

Your Perfect Universities = Perfect for You.

They are the campuses that have the resources and environment that most support you in achieving your unique educational/life goals.

There is no ideal “perfect university”, no one size fits all that meets the needs of every student, but there are perfect universities for you.
Formula for Making “Good” Decisions

Information + Experience + Evaluation + Trusting Yourself = Good Decisions
Two Key Factors

- Gathering and Evaluating Information
- Using your Head and your Heart
Always Remember....

- It’s a process not a one-time activity.

- Your choices and decisions are subject to change as you learn new information and as you have more experience.

- The better you know yourself the more authentic your decisions will be.

- Wisdom =
Gathering & Evaluating Information

Use your head to:

– Research websites and other resources to collect and record data

– Compare and analyze the data you collect

– Draw conclusions from facts
Examples of Questions

- Does the university offer my major?
- What are the transfer admissions requirements (GPA? number of transferable units? specific coursework? audition or portfolio?)
- Are good educational support facilities available (libraries, computers)?
- What are the costs per academic year?
- What financial aid packages and scholarships are available?
- Can I work while I'm in school? If so, how many hours a week?
- Does the institution have evening courses?
- Does the institution allow part-time study?
- What is the size of the institution?
- What types of housing are available and what are the average costs?
- Does the campus have Family Student housing? Child care services?
- What are the academic support services available to me?
- What is the average size of upper division classes in my major?
- What internships/research opportunities are available?
- Have recent graduates been admitted to the professional/graduate schools I want to attend?
- What companies come to campus to hire students after graduation?
Gathering & Evaluating Information

Use your heart to:

- Be aware of what motivates you
- Know your preferences (likes and dislikes)
- Be aware of your responses to different environments and experiences
- Base decisions on your values (what’s important to you)
Examples of Questions


- How far away do I want to be from home?

- What size campus will I be the most comfortable and still be challenged?

- Do I want to be on a campus where everyone knows me? A lot of people know me? Some people know me, most don't?

- What's the ideal class size for me where I perform at my best?

- Would the campus environment suit me? Do I find it stimulating? Do I think it's ugly? Is it scary? Or just right?

- How important is ethnic diversity to me?

- What do I enjoy doing when I'm not studying? Athletics? Participating in student clubs/government? Working? Spending time with family and friends?

- Does the college/university have activities I'm interested in?

- What subjects do I enjoy studying?

- What motivates and inspires me?

- How important is this particular fact to me?
Questions and Answers

Questioning is a part of the process.

The answers/information you collect are only as good as the questions that you ask.
Tools and Resources

My Perfect Universities Workbook

- Available at www.sbcc.edu/transfercenter

- Click on Events/Workshop Materials on left

- A tool you can use for your process of selecting your perfect universities
More Tools & Resources

For Researching Universities

- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) has the College Quickfinder that has many of the same tools as CaliforniaColleges.edu but includes information about all U.S. universities

- [ww.collegesource.org](http://ww.collegesource.org) allows you to read campus profiles and college catalogs. (You can access it at any computer on the SBCC campus.)

- [www.CaliforniaColleges.edu](http://www.CaliforniaColleges.edu) contains information about all California colleges and has the following tools:
  - Matching Assistant - Find campuses that meet your specific requirements
  - Distance Search - Find the campus closest to any zip code
  - Comparative View - Compare colleges and universities in California
  - Key Facts - Obtain a brief overview of participating campuses Campus Tours

- [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) allows you to search and compare CSU campuses

- [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply) provides information about all the UC campuses including direct links to each campus' website

- [www.uctransfer.org](http://www.uctransfer.org) information on UC Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGS), transfer planning, costs, etc.

- [www.aiccu.edu](http://www.aiccu.edu) provides an on-line guidebook for California Private/Independent colleges and universities
More Tools & Resources

For Researching Universities

- **www.hbcu-central.com** provides information on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

- **www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/Hispanic/hsi/hsi9798/hsitable.html** List of Hispanic Serving Institutions by state with links to each college/university

- **www.kstrom.net/isk/schools/schools.html** provides information about Tribal Colleges

- **www.dot.gov/ost/docr/msi/main.html** is a good resource on Minority Serving Institutions
More Tools & Resources

For Researching Universities

- **www.sbcc.edu/transfercenter**
  - Speak with College and university representatives visiting SBCC on "Transfer Day" each Fall and/or
  - Make appointments to meet with visiting university/college representatives sponsored by the Transfer Center during the academic year
  - Attend Transfer Center Workshops on specific universities
  - Meet with a transfer advisor in the Transfer Center

- **Visit colleges/universities** and go on campus tour, sit in on classes, speak with current students

- **Email/phone/visit the university admissions office**
More Tools & Resources

Explore Careers/Majors
- www.eureka.org Nationwide (At Create Account prompt: type VUOHNDU )
- www.assist.org for UC & CSU
- www.collegesource.org for university catalogs

Email/phone/visit/website of the academic/major department of the actual college/university

Email/phone/visit/website of the Career Center of the actual college/university

Visit SBCC Career Center and their website www.sbcc.edu/careercenter/

General Assistance
- SBCC Counselors & Advisors – Academic Counseling Center, EOPS, Transfer Academy (TAGS)
Transfer Center Drop-In Advising Hours
SS 140

Now thru October 31st
Mon: 10am-1-pm & 3-5pm
Tues: 10am-1-pm & 3-5pm
Wed: 10am-1-pm & 3-5pm
Thur: 10am-1-pm & 2-4 pm

November 3rd – December 19th
Mon: 10am-1-pm & 3-5pm
Tues: 10am-1-pm & 3-5pm
Wed: 10am - 5pm
Thur: 8:30am-4 pm
Fri: 8:30am – 12pm