

Applying to Competitive Colleges

To assist you with your transfer search process, please refer to *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges* for a list of top institutions, selective historically black colleges, and state flagships. Among these colleges, we encourage you to find the academic environment that will be the best fit for you. Factors to consider are academic offerings, location, transferability of credits and housing options for transfer students. The goal is to find a good match for you and the institution; that is, a place that welcomes your contributions and, in turn, accommodates your needs.

Below is a checklist to help you begin your search.

- Review the lists of top colleges and universities in *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*.
- Contact at least 8-10 colleges to learn more about their academic programs, honors programs, transfer policies, acceptance rates and admissions/financial aid deadlines (ask if they offer application fee waivers).
- Arrange for campus visits or attend transfer open house programs.
- Finalize your list. Separate your schools into three different categories: Reach, Possible, and Likely. Reach schools are places whose numbers are a bit higher than yours, possible colleges are ones whose statistics match yours and where you might have a 50/50 chance of being admitted, and likely schools are ones you expect to be accepted. Your final list should include at least two or three schools in each category.