



Resource Guide for Researching Schools

When it comes to college research, there are a lot of resources out there. Not all of them, however, are reliable and accurate. Being in the business of admissions consulting, we've surveyed the biggest and best resources available to the public to determine which are the most comprehensive and useful. Here are some of our favorites:

BOOKS

→ *The Insider's Guide to College*

Available for purchase online or in bookstores, this extensive book is filled with information straight from current students. Their reviews and comments are invaluable, especially if you cannot visit the school in person.

WEBSITES

→ *BigFuture (by The College Board)*

WWW.BIGFUTURE.ORG

Compiled by The College Board (they administer the SAT), BigFuture makes it easy to find schools based on specific search filters, from Test Scores & Selectivity, to Diversity, to Sports & Activities.

College Results Online

WWW.COLLEGERESULTS.COM

→ College Results Online is a tool that allows you to do in-depth research on individual schools. You can look up stats such as cost, graduation rate, student body makeup, and more. Additionally, you can use College Results to find schools similar to the schools you already know you like. This can be a great help in developing your school list.

Individual college's admissions websites

→ The most useful area of a college's website will be the one for prospective students (usually found through the Undergraduate Admissions tab on the school's website). This site will clearly list statistics and details, with information on everything from application requirements to the percentage breakdown of majors.

Be wary of open message board on sites like College Confidential. These are not verified, and so anyone can post about any school—without even being a student there! Rely more heavily on the regulated websites (BigFuture and Unigo) to ensure that you are not getting misinformation. (Note: College Confidential isn't all bad—they have great resources from actual former college admissions officers. Just beware of the open forums.)