

July 21st 2020

Dear Running Start Students Class of 2021,

This is the first of many Applying to a 4-Year Colleges or Universities newsletter! Throughout this summer check your BC inbox for emails helping you prepare for applying to colleges and universities in the Fall of 2020, your senior year. Each newsletter will cover different topics and will always include **links to resources** for you to explore and use on your own.

**If you are not planning on attending a 4-year school after high school then please ignore these emails and feel free to reach out to an advisor with questions about your path after high school.*

FINDING YOUR COLLEGE FIT & RESEARCHING SCHOOLS

The summer between your Junior and Senior year of high school you should learn about college-fit, take time to research colleges and universities, learn about the differences among schools, and decide what you do/don't want in a college or university. It is important to do some research because not all schools will be a good fit for you. Take the time to consider what you need in a school in order to be successful so that all your options are good options!

FINDING YOUR COLLEGE FIT

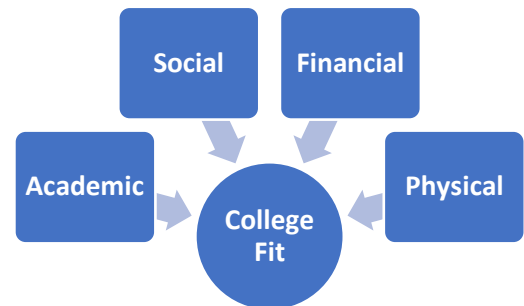
College Fit = when a school meets your needs in order for you to be successful

A school will be a good fit for you when it meets your needs or college-fit-factors. College-Fit-factors are what you need from a school in order to be successful in your higher education.

College-Fit Factors = what you need from a school in order to be successful there

College-Fit-factors are your preferences when it comes to things such as location, campus size, student body, campus culture, academic rigor, majors offered, student opportunities, financial aid, overall cost of the school, and more. Every student has different college-fit-factors so take the time this summer to ask yourself what are yours? Here are 4 general categories of fit factors to help you organize your search:

- **Academic** (majors, opportunities, admissions requirements)
- **Social** (school culture, student clubs and activities)
- **Physical** (campus type, location, distance from home, access to classrooms)
- **Financial** (cost, financial aid, cost of housing and meals, tuition and fees, etc.)



Resources to Find Your College Fit:

Here are some resources to help you find your Fit Factors. Use these resources to ask yourself questions and think carefully about what is important in order for you to be successful in your higher education. There is a worksheet I created attached to this email you can use as well.

[Big Future: College Search Step-By-Step](#)

[Princeton Review: How to Find your Best College Fit](#)

[CollegeExpress: 4 Ways to Find your College Fit](#)

[Niche: Finding Your College Fit Quiz](#)

Last updated 8/3/2020 by Erica Walker

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RESEARCHING SCHOOLS

When researching schools, you can always do a google search, but I find it is easier to use some of the following websites. These websites help you find different schools based on categories: type of school, location, campus type, majors, academic programs, cost, etc. You'll notice these websites are pretty similar so test out each of them and find one that you like the best. Use your College Fit factors to help find schools that will be a good fit for you!

Resources to Research Schools:

[Big Future College Search](#)

[College Data](#)

[College Scorecard](#)

[Princeton Review College Search](#)

[Niche.com Search Tool](#)

Get started today in discovering your College-Fit-Factors and begin your research to find the schools that are a good fit for you! If you have any questions about these topics please respond to this email.

Next newsletter topic: Creating a College List & Categorizing your list: Reach, Match, and Likely schools

Take care,

Erica Walker

Running Start Advisor, Center for High School Programs

[Click here to Schedule a RS Advising Appointment](#)

PHONE: (425)564-4038

SUMMER HOURS: Monday thru Thursday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Center for High School Programs

Phone: (425)564-4151

Email: chsprograms@bellevuecollege.edu



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College Fit Factors Worksheet

The purpose of this worksheet is to help you brainstorm your College Fit factors. College Fit factors are what you need in a 4-year school in order to be successful. There are four categories of College Fit factors: Academic, Social, Physical, and Financial. For each category take time to consider the questions listed as well as any other College Fit factors that the questions did not cover that are unique to you. In the empty boxes, list your answers to the questions (your College Fit factors).



If you have questions or want more guidance email erica.walker@bellevuecollege.edu (Running Start Advisor)

<p>ACADEMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major(s)? • Minors(s)? • Class Size? • Classes taught by professors or student teaching assistants? • Academic rigor? • Other fit factors? 	<p>Academic College Fit factors:</p>
<p>SOCIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student population: How many students? Racial/cultural make-up of the student body? • Values of the school • Student opportunities: internships, jobs, research, study abroad? • Sports: Varsity/JV? Intermural? • Other non-academic activities: musical groups, outdoors activities, arts groups, writing groups, social-justice groups? • Other fit factors? 	<p>Social College Fit factors:</p>
<p>PHYSICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of school: Public or Private? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public schools offer lower tuition for students who are residents of that state. Private schools offer the same tuition for all students but often times have more money for scholarships for students. Public schools for in-state residents are often more affordable. • Size of campus? • Distance from home? • Live on campus or off campus? • Campus setting: urban, rural, suburban? • Other fit factors? 	<p>Physical College Fit factors:</p>
<p>FINANCIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of tuition, student fees, housing and meal programs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the total cost and then how much of that total cost do you need to be covered by financial aid in order to be able to attend that school. • The average amount of financial need the school meets? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This means of all students who attend, what percentage of their financial need does the school meet? • Scholarships offered by the school? How much would you need? • Work Study opportunities? • Other fit factors? 	<p>Financial College Fit factors:</p>

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Other Resources to Find your Fit:

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