

Choosing a School: Research Your Options Activity Guide

Instructions and purpose: *Choosing where to go to school is a big decision. This tool will help you to consider several important factors when choosing a school.*

Step 1: Conduct research and complete the table. Use the [College Navigator website](#) to help you learn about various schools.

What is the name of the school?	Is the school accredited? ¹ By whom?	Is the school for profit? If so, check the Better Business Bureau .	What are the program's features? Visit the school's website to find out.	How well does the program match your goals? Consult your career plan.	What is the annual cost? ²	What is the cohort default rate? ³	What is the graduation rate?	What is the employment rate for graduates?

1 Why is this important? [Accreditation](#) is one quality indicator and can affect your ability to receive financial aid.

2 You can also go here to calculate [net price](#) for attending this school that includes other costs and estimates financial aid.

3 Why is this important? The [cohort default rate](#) tells you about the success rate of students paying their school loans.

Step 2: Use the discussion questions below to weigh your options and help decide where to apply.

1. Which factors in the table matter most to you and why?

2. Which school(s) appeal to you most and why?

3. Which school(s) appeal less to you and why?

4. What other factors do you need to consider that aren't represented in the table?

Note: If the long term steps you identified in your CPD Plan involve transferring from a 2-year to a 4-year school, you may need to consider additional factors and research. For example, will the credits you earn transfer to the 4-year school you want to attend?