



Guide to Choosing a College

There are thousands of schools you can apply to – how do you choose? When looking at schools on Ryman Arts' College Day, or elsewhere, think about what kind of school is right for you. You may not have a strong opinion in all these categories. Keep an open mind. How you feel about these different aspects of college?

⊙ Curriculum

Are programs offered in your fields of interest? Do they have a large department in your favorite subjects or just a couple of classes? Do they have good facilities for the subjects you'd like to study?

⊙ Art School Curriculum

Which art departments are you interested in? Is their emphasis more academic or vocational? Do they have the facilities you need to fully develop your skills?

⊙ Location and Housing

Are you planning on living at or near home, or do you want to live away from home? Do you want to be in a city, suburb or rural environment?

⊙ Size

Do you want to be in a small, medium or large student body? In general a small campus offers more individual attention and a personalized experience, and a large campus offers more resources, social opportunities and academic departments.

⊙ Art

Are you going to major in art, minor in it, or just take a few classes on the side? Is there a particular art career you are aiming for? Do you want your college education to be mostly art or mostly academics? If you're not going to major in art, is it important to you that you are still able to take art classes?

⊙ Specialized Groups

Would you prefer to be at a school where almost all the students are of the same religion, gender or ethnicity as you are? There are religious colleges, women's colleges and colleges that were founded for specific ethnicities all over the country. Art school is like a specialized group as well, since you're only going to school with other artists, instead of students studying a wide variety of disciplines.

⊙ Cost and Financial Aid

Do not ever reject a school based on its tuition – a good financial aid package from an expensive private school can make it less costly to you than a city college. However, it's important to be aware of potential costs from the beginning. In addition to tuition and housing costs, you may have high art supply costs, depending on your chosen medium.