

# College Comparison Worksheet

You've recorded information about each college on your shortlist using the College Facts Worksheet. You've evaluated how well each school meets your needs based on the data for each of the four questions, plus other factors important to you. High means that the school does a great job of meeting your needs for that question. Medium means that it's good enough. Low means that the school is weak in that area and isn't really what you are looking for.

Transfer those evaluations to this comparison sheet. Compare the schools. Which one(s) seem to reflect your needs the best? Is there a school you have your heart set on that falls short? Reexamine what you like about the school and the data—maybe something you didn't consider is more important to you than you thought.

	School:	School:	School:	School:
The Four Questions	_____	_____	_____	_____
<p><b>1 Does the college offer what I want to study?</b></p> <p>High – It has the right mix of degree, classes, and opportunities I'm looking for.            Medium – It has the degree and the classes I'm looking for.            Low – It does not offer what I thought it would.</p>				
<p><b>2 How much will it cost, and can I afford to go there?</b></p> <p>High – I can afford this school even if I don't receive the average level of grant aid for my income group.            Medium – If I get some grants, I may be able to swing this.            Low – It will require a level of borrowing that I'm not sure I (or my family) can manage.</p>				
<p><b>3 What is the quality of the education I will receive? (best if focused on program of study)</b></p> <p>High – This school offers me a great program of high quality.            Medium – The school offers a good program for me.            Low – There is little to suggest academics are of good quality.</p>				
<p><b>4 What is the college environment?</b></p> <p>High – This school offers my ideal environment.            Medium – This school has an environment that I might get used to.            Low – This school does not offer the environment I'm looking for.</p>				
<p><b>Other things important to me</b></p> <p>High – This school addresses all the other things I think are important.            Medium – This school addresses some of the other things I think are important.            Low – This school doesn't address enough of the other things I think are important.</p>				

Consider removing schools that don't receive a HIGH in response to a majority of these questions. If you keep a school on your list, make a note of why you think the low score can be ignored.