




# Choosing a 4-Year University College Comparison Matrix

TRANSFERRING FROM COS TO A 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY TAKES A LOT OF PLANNING AND CAN BE OVERWHELMING AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION. HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS AND A COMPARISON CHART YOU CAN USE TO HELP YOU MAKE A DECISION!

CAMPUSES THAT YOU APPLIED TO:	ACCEPTED	COST OF ATTENDING	FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS	HAVE YOU TOURED?	HOUSING OPTIONS & TRANSPORTATION COSTS	CAMPUS CULTURE	ACADEMICS
1. Fresno State 	Pending	Before aid: \$22,889 After Aid: \$5,640	Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$	Yes	On Campus: \$ At Home - Commuting: \$ Off-Campus : \$ Transportation: \$	Over 300 active student Organizations	Study Abroad in Thailand: Engineering, Journalism, Global Studies Majors
2.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				
3.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				
4.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				
5.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				
6.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				
7.			Pell Grant \$ Cal Grant: \$ Scholarship 1: \$ Scholarship 2: \$				

**ONCE YOU APPLY, BE PATIENT. DECISIONS MAY TAKE UP TO 3-4 MONTHS. BE SURE TO PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES.**

**IF YOU NEED TO MAKE CORRECTIONS TO YOUR APPLICATION AFTER YOU SUBMITTED IT, PLEASE CONTACT THE 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY DIRECTLY.**

**SEE THE BACK PAGE OF QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOURSELF TO NARROW THE OPTIONS AND A CHECKLIST FOR NEXT STEPS**



# Considerations When Choosing a 4-Year University & Checklist

Academics, affordability, athletics, faculty, and campus culture are a few things to consider when making a decision on which campus is a “fit” for you. As you create your own checklist, consider some of the following below:

## ACADEMICS

- Do they offer any specific concentrations under the general major that you applied to?
- If you like to travel, do they offer study abroad programs?
- Do they offer traditional, online, hybrid, evening classes?
- Reputation is important. What program(s) is the campus known for?
- Will I graduate in a timely manner?

## CAMPUS

- What is the student population of the campus? Do you want a small campus feeling (less than 15,000 students) or a big campus feeling (over 20,000 students)?
- Do you thrive in big or small groups of people?
- Is the school student focus?
- Do they have student clubs or resources you are interested in?
- Is the location something that meets my needs? Are you okay commuting?
- Is the campus close to other cities?
- How will I afford to go home on holidays, weekends, or when there is an emergency?
- Is the campus in a safe location?
- How is the school spirit (vibe)?

## AFFORDABILITY

- How are you covering the tuition fees, living costs, books, etc?
- Are there scholarships, grants, or loans you can apply to?

## DIVERSITY

- Are there professors and students who look like you?
- Do you see yourself fitting in and being comfortable?
- Does the campus appear diverse when visiting?
- Is there a sense of belonging or community?

## FRIENDLINESS - IF YOU ATTENDED A CAMPUS TOUR

- Do people smile or interact with you?
- Do you see yourself making new friends on campus?
- Do people ask you if you need help, hold the door for you, or say “Hi”?
- Is the college president genuine?
- Do you feel like you belong?

TO DO LIST AFTER YOU APPLY	
Check your email regularly. This could be completing a Supplemental Application!	
Check your 4-year university portal for “Holds/To-Do” lists.	
Submit official transcripts and documents to the 4-year university REQUESTING them.	
Apply for FAFSA (financial aid and include the campuses you applied to).	
If getting a degree from COS, see a counselor to apply for the degree.	

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THINGS TO CONSIDER WHILE WAITING	
COMPARE COST (AFFORDABILITY)	<p>Create a chart or spreadsheet to help you track and compare the costs of attending school. Consider tuition fees, cost of living (dorms vs. apartments vs. with family), food, transportation, etc.</p> <p>Have an in-depth discussion with your family/support systems about your financial situation. Ultimately, your scholarships and other financial considerations may make your decision for you.</p>
RESEARCH/TOUR THE CAMPUS CULTURE	<p>After figuring out which universities you can afford to attend, take some time to research/tour each school. Visit the website for campuses you applied for in-person events such as Preview Days, College Visits, etc., to get a better sense of campus culture.</p> <p>If you cannot attend an in-person visit, take some time to go online and use YouTube/Google/social media for campus videos/content.</p>
MAKE FINAL DECISION	<p>Wait for admission decisions from all campuses before selecting the ONE. Once you made the decision based on everything, it’s time to celebrate!</p>

**QUESTIONS? VISIT THE TRANSFER & CAREER CENTER  
(555) 737-6110 VISALIA CAMPUS SEQUOIAS ROOM 9**