

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TRANSFER UNIVERSITY

Each transfer university has different transfer requirements and qualities. It is important to find a good academic and personal match. Choosing early will help you be more efficient in your class choices and more competitive for your top preference.

Step 1- decide what is important to you by looking at the below categories and choosing the description/s that match your preferences.

Academics of school:

- ☐ My major is offered
- ☐ The department offering my major is supportive of students
- ☐ The department that offers my major coordinates internship opportunities
- ☐ My minor is offered
- ☐ Ranking/Reputation of school
- ☐ Teacher to student ratio
- ☐ Research opportunities, there are opportunities to assist in the lab with a faculty member
- ☐ The faculty publishes and/or are recognized in their field/ won significant awards
- ☐ The school/major is competitive
- ☐ The college/major has the recognized accreditation
- ☐ There is an option to attend part-time
- ☐ Non-traditional education is offered such as, internet, independent study, specialized major
- ☐ There are a variety of study abroad programs
- ☐ The school/major is not impacted/ I can get the classes when I need/want them

Social/Student life:

- ☐ Intercollegiate sports I like to play or watch are available
- ☐ Intramural sports I like to play or watch are available
- ☐ Personality/values of student body
- ☐ Diversity/ ethnic/gender ratios
- ☐ Fraternities and/or sororities
- ☐ Guaranteed transfer housing
- ☐ Off-campus living options/cost

Location:

- ☐ Local
- ☐ In-state
- ☐ Medium city
- ☐ Large city
- ☐ Small town near a city
- ☐ Out of town
- ☐ Rural/isolated town

- ___ College town
- ___ Weather conditions
- ___ Activities close by, surfing, museums, snow skiing, hiking, nightlife, ext.

Support Services:

- ___ Career Services, they assist with internship/job opportunities
- ___ Financial Aid
- ___ Scholarships
- ___ Academic Advising
- ___ Counseling/psychological services
- ___ Disability Resources
- ___ Library Resources
- ___ Campus safety/Police

Step 2- Fill out your top criteria for the ideal campus from the above list:

Academics: _____

Social/Student Life: _____

Support Services: _____

Other: _____

Step 3- Rank the criteria that are most important to you in order:

Step 4- Research individual schools to see which is the best fit for you and matches your above criteria. You can go to the school web site, which is usually [www.school name.edu](http://www.schoolname.edu), example, www.palomar.edu or you can use one of the following search engines.

<http://www.collegesource.org/>- Online library of college catalogs.
<http://www.californiacolleges.edu/>- Search colleges in California.
<http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/>- Search US colleges and universities by state.
<http://www.schoolsintheusa.com/>- Search colleges and universities by state.
<http://www.braintrack.com/>- Search colleges and universities internationally.
<http://www.collegereviewjournal.org/>- Search online colleges and universities in the United States.
<http://www.csummentor.edu/>- Information about the 24 CSU system schools.
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/>- Information about the 9 UC system schools.

Step 5- Complete the below exercise:

Campuses I am considering:

Criteria that match:

Step 6- List your top 3 choices, tour each of these schools, and visit the department chair of your major field of study. Meet with a counselor to learn about requirements for successful admission into the university or program and to complete an educational plan.

Visit www.palomar.edu/transfer for more information about transfer and links to helpful websites!