

UNDERSTANDING THE DIALS and THE DETAILS

College information on the College Admissions Tool > Matching College List

The document will help you understand how you can use the Matching College List to find out just about everything you want to know about admission to each of the Colleges on the page – and, it will highlight how to expand or contract your list of colleges as well.

Use the bookmarks below to jump to topics that interest you or you need to better understand. Once you have a list of Colleges displayed in which you are really interested, Select to Compare colleges and add them to your Favorites. Colleges you favorite may be further evaluated on the My Progress, My Scorecard, and My Plan pages.



If you sign into your College In Colorado account, we will save your work. Then, click on the CollegeInColorado.org link at the top of each page to continue detailed career, college and financial aid planning there. You won't even have to sign in again; just refresh the page and continue working.

Click the bookmarks below to get more information about using the dials and exploring the details for each college.

For example, what do we mean by “Retention Rate?” Click the dropdown arrow next to each college name to find their retention rate, and then click that term on the list below to read what it means.



[Using the Dials](#)

[Exploring College Details](#)

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There are two primary spots to really dig into college information:

First, using the DIALS



1 Click the test name to enter and compare scores from the test(s) you took; either ACT or SAT. By default, the system will display the type of test with your strongest score if you took both.

2 Once you enter your GPA and test scores, your scores create the indicator line from the center circle (Me) to a spot on the dial.

3 The green part of the dial shows the GPA/test score mid-range of 50% of the students admitted to that college. In other words, 50% of that college's admits had a GPA/test score within that range, 25% had below, and 25% had above those scores. So, if your indicator line is in the green, you are competitive, above the green, highly competitive or below the green, less competitive.

4 Your "competitive" level is based upon the GPA or test score you entered. So, for example, if you entered a 3.5 GPA and the college's mid-range of students admitted is a 2.8 to 3.4 GPA, your GPA is "Highly Competitive" because it is higher than 50% of the admitted students at that college. But remember, GPA and test scores are only two of many factors a college may consider when making admission decisions.

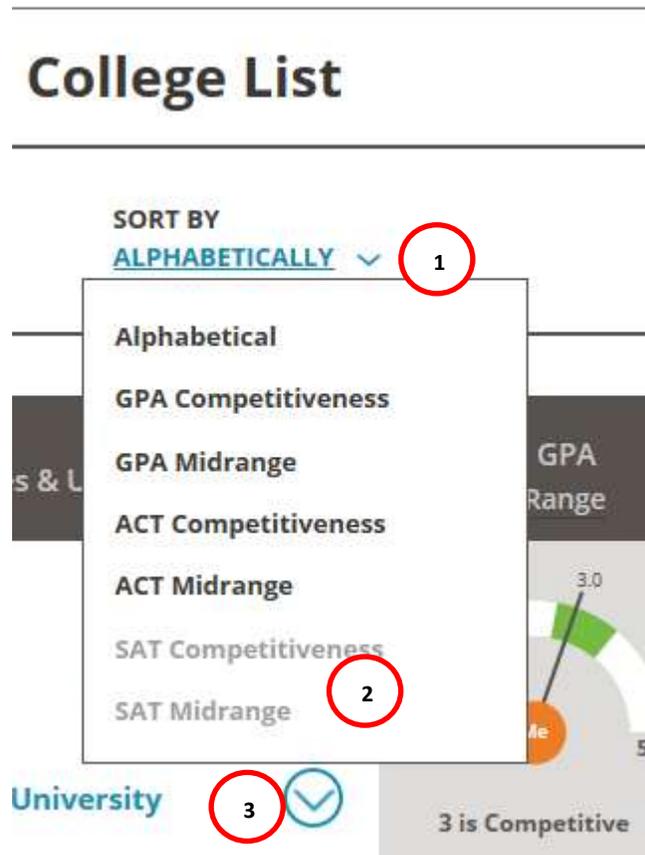
5 What if the dial is all green? That means that we don't have information on that college's range OR that GPA and test scores don't matter in that college's admissions decisions, such as at community colleges.

6 Know you're not interested in a college? Click X to hide it (you can always un-hide it later if you change your mind).

7 If you want to compare college detailed information side-by-side, click the "Select to Compare" checkbox for at least two colleges.

8 If you are interested in a college and want to do further analysis and planning, click the "Add to Favorites" checkbox.

Second, exploring the DETAILS



College List

SORT BY
 ALPHABETICALLY ▾

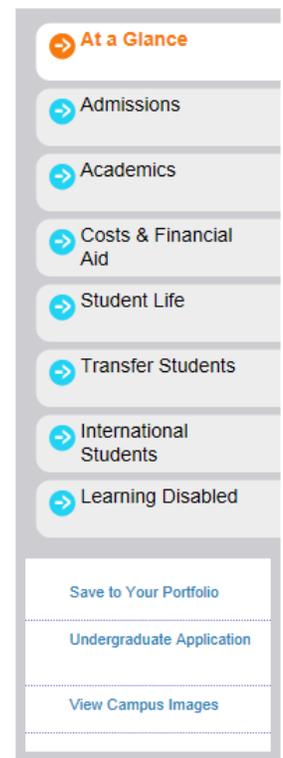
- Alphabetical
- GPA Competitiveness
- GPA Midrange
- ACT Competitiveness
- ACT Midrange
- SAT Competitiveness
- SAT Midrange

University 3 is Competitive

- 1 Click the “SORT BY” dropdown arrow to resort your Matching College List. The system starts with four year colleges first, then two-year, with an alphabetical sort on school name within those two types.
- 2 If some of the items on the sort list are gray, it means you haven’t entered that information yet!
- 3 Get the **DETAILS** on a College by clicking the big down arrow by the college’s name. Look below to find out more about each of the criteria on this list.

DETAILS dropdown

- **Full College Profile** – Click on this link to see the college’s complete profile on CollegeInColorado.org., including all of the important information shown on the image at the right.
- **Minimum Index Score** - The index, which will be used by four-year colleges in their admissions decisions until fall 2019, has two components: a student’s high school performance (high school grade point average or class rank) and performance on a standardized test (ACT or SAT). [Calculate your index score online](#) then look at each college to see if you meet their minimum.



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- Admissions
- Academics
- Costs & Financial Aid
- Student Life
- Transfer Students
- International Students
- Learning Disabled

- Save to Your Portfolio
- Undergraduate Application
- View Campus Images



- **Four-Year (or Two-year)** – This item tells you the *Type* of college and indicates what kinds of degrees and credentials you will gain by attending them; whether a four-year institution that grants bachelors and advanced degrees or a two-year community, junior or technical college that offers associates degrees and shorter term certificates.

You can select Types to display on your Matching College List by clicking the “Type” drop-down under College Characteristics on the left side of the List.

- **Public (or Private)** – Colleges in Colorado that are funded with state tax dollars are public institutions. Private colleges may be for-profit (they expect to make money in addition to covering their cost of operations) or non-profit (they expect to make enough money to only cover expenses).

- **Highest Enrollment Programs** - Colorado colleges have provided the names of programs at their institution that enroll the highest number of students, listed here.

- **In-State Tuition (Student Share) and Fees** – Undergraduate students that are classified by their college as “in-state” will pay the in-state tuition at that college. However, at participating colleges, eligible in-state undergraduate students will also receive a deduction from their tuition from the College Opportunity Fund (COF). The amount an eligible student ends up paying is called the “Student Share” of tuition. You can view [this chart](#) showing how the stipend works based on taking 15 credit hours each of two semesters (not including summer) for the 2015-16 academic year.

Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College are two exceptions among public colleges in Colorado. Rather than the COF, they offer different in-state tuition levels depending on whether a student lives within the Colleges’ service district.

So, the In-State tuition (student share) and fees shown for the colleges in your Matching College List include:

- Tuition plus mandatory fees after deducting the [College Opportunity Fund stipend](#) ^{PDF} for students eligible for an in-state tuition classification at [participating schools](#) OR;
- Tuition plus mandatory fees for in-district students (at Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College) OR;
- Full tuition and mandatory fees for schools that do not participate in the College Opportunity Fund and do not offer in-district rates.

If you are a student without documentation, be sure to visit the [Colorado ASSET](#) website to find out whether you may be eligible for in-state tuition and the College Opportunity Fund.

- **Out-of-State Tuition and Fees** – Undergraduate students that are classified by their college as “out-of-state” (not “in-state” or “resident”) will pay the out-of-state tuition at that college. So, the Out-of-state tuition and fees shown for the colleges in your Matching College List is out-of-state tuition plus mandatory fees based on taking 15 credit hours each of two semesters (not including summer) in a year during the 2015-16 academic year.



Welcome, guest

MY PERFORMANCE	
Enter amounts to experiment	
H.S. GPA	N/A
ACT	N/A
SAT	N/A
INDEX SCORE	N/A

COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS	
Student Enrollment Size	▼
Location	▼
Type	▼

- **Undergraduate Enrollment** – This item tells you how many undergraduate students are enrolled at the college, both full- and part-time. This number includes first time freshmen students and those that have transferred from another college. It does not include students enrolled as graduate students; those in Masters, Professional or Ph.D. level programs (students that already have a Bachelor’s degree).

You can select different levels of undergraduate enrollment and see the colleges that meet those criteria in your Matching College List by clicking the “Student Enrollment Size” drop-down under College Characteristics on the left side of the List.

- **Transfer Students** - Transfer students are those students that have earned credit for college-level courses at a previous college(s) after high school graduation or GED completion and then enrolled at a different college (students whose college courses were all earned while in high school are NOT considered transfer students). You can see from the amount listed here how many transfer students a college has compared to the total Undergraduate Enrollment discussed above.

However, even though students who have earned any college credit from one institution and then go to another are called transfer students, when making *admissions decisions*, colleges in Colorado will apply transfer student admission standards only to those students who have more than 12 credit hours of college work. And, not all college credits from one college may be transferable to another. Read important information [here](#) and then be sure to talk with the college’s admissions department - they will help you understand these standards.

- **6 Year Graduation Rate** – The amount shown here is the percent of full-time, first-time students pursuing a bachelor’s degree at this college who began their program in fall of 2008 and completed within 6 years.
- **Retention Rate** – The amount shown here is the percentage of first-time students pursuing a bachelor’s degree at this college in fall of 2013 that returned to continue their studies in the fall of 2014.
- **% Receiving Grant/Scholarship Aid** – This amount is the percentage of all undergraduate students during the 2013-14 academic year that received grant or scholarship aid including aid from the federal government, state or local government, the college and other sources known by the reporting college. [Grant and scholarship aid](#) is assistance that does not have to be paid back.
- **% Receiving Federal Loans** - This amount is the percentage of all undergraduate students during the 2013-14 academic year that received federal loans. [Federal loan aid](#) is assistance that must be paid back.
- **Application Fee** – Many colleges charge a small application fee to process your application. However, note that most community colleges don’t have a fee and some colleges don’t charge the normal fee to low-income students. Look for each college’s policy on their [website](#)’s Admissions page.

- **Accreditation** – this is the name of the agency that has reviewed and certified the quality of the College. Most legitimate schools are approved by a state agency, like the [Colorado Commission on Higher Education](#) and/or an accrediting agency recognized by the [U.S. Department of Education](#) or the [Council for Higher Education](#).

Before you respond to any school’s ads or offers make sure the school is legitimate by checking the [Colorado Commission on Higher Education](#) web site that lists all institutions authorized to operate within the State of Colorado. Legitimate schools will also identify the association from which they have received accreditation. [Read about](#) and watch out for Accreditation “Mills.”

- **Admissions Information** – this link will take you to the college’s admission page. Read all about their standards for admissions and how to apply.