

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TOOL OVERVIEW

1. Open the Tool at <http://www.CoAdmissionsTool.org>
2. Use the Wizard: click on the “Build Options Wizard” button

The screen will look something like this:

College Admissions Tool FOR COLORADO

Exploring Admissions Criteria builds a Matching College List. You will be able to change your selections on the List or at any time, you [skip directly to your Matching Colleges List](#).

OPTIONS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL | SELECT SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS | ENTER MY INFORMATION | VIEW MY COLLEGES

Matching Colleges: 25 of 45 colleges 1 OF 13

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

- Apprenticeships
- Private Occupational & Technical Schools
- U.S. Military
- Direct to Work

College Options

- Four-year Colleges
- Two-year & Technical Colleges

CHOOSE YOUR PATHWAY
Select a pathway for more information.

Click on the Four-year Colleges circle then move through the Wizard, making selections consistent with your priorities and characteristics. Explore and learn about each topic as you go! The wizard will create a Matching College List based on your responses.

Important note: Experts recommend that you apply to more than one college. You should select at least one college into which you will be admitted easily and one “stretch” college – that is, one that it will be more difficult to get into. So, you may want to keep two-year colleges on your list since they offer “open enrollment” (you will be admitted regardless of GPA or test scores). You can do this by selecting both two- and four-year alternatives on the “Confirm Choices” step (screen 3 of 13), of the wizard.

3. Once you arrive at the Matching College List, ensure you have entered your GPA, ACT/SAT scores and My Coursework information. It will look something like:



Welcome, guest

MY PERFORMANCE

Enter amounts to experiment
H.S. GPA 3.2
ACT 18
SAT N/A

COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

Student Enrollment Size
Location
Type

Matching College List

MY RESULTS
36 of 45
4-Year Public/Private + Community, Junior & Public Area Technical colleges

How many colleges are left on your list?

4-Year Colleges & Universities	H.S. GPA Mid-Range	ACT Mid-Range	SAT Mid-Range	Select Colleges
Colorado Christian University				SHOW +
Colorado College				SHOW +
<p>30 miles from 80501 Golden</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites
<p>28 miles from 80501 Fort Collins</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites
<p>30 miles from 80501 Denver</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites
Community, Junior, Public Area Technical colleges	H.S. GPA Mid-Range	ACT Mid-Range	SAT Mid-Range	Select Colleges
<p>15 miles from 80501 Multiple campuses</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites
<p>62 miles from 80501 Multiple campuses</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites
<p>132 miles from 80501 Multiple campuses</p>				HIDE X Select to Compare Add to Favorites

If you aren't interested in a college, hide it.

If you're really interested, click to Add to Favorites and/or Select to Compare side by side.

Green is the score range of 50% of students admitted in the past. Does your indicator line read below (less competitive), in the green (competitive) or above (highly competitive)?

Two-year colleges/community colleges are all green because they are open enrollment (Some other colleges may be all green because we don't have their range information).

Adjust your scores to see what happens to the College dials.

Get more detail about each college.

- Pick and **Add to Favorites** at least two colleges, where the dial indicators are in or above the green (you are competitive). Then add a couple where the indicator is close to the green but below it (you are less competitive).
- Click on the **“My Progress”** tab at the top of the Tool.

You can re-review the GPA and test score dials here, but you can also review and rate how you are doing on coursework requirements and “Additional Considerations” such as writing a great essay, community service you have completed and so forth.

The screenshot shows the 'My Progress' tool interface. The top section is 'High School Coursework' with a sub-header 'Rate yourself on coursework rigor'. It contains a table with columns for subject, a dial indicator, and a progress bar. The subjects listed are English (3), Mathematics (3), Natural/Physical Sciences (3), Social Sciences (2), World/Foreign Languages (1), and Academic Electives (3). Below this is a 'Rate Yourself: High School Coursework' section with three sliders. The bottom section is 'Additional Considerations' with a sub-header 'Rate your strength in additional considerations'. It includes a text prompt: 'Select the attributes you feel are your strengths, and then rate yourself on the competency scale.' and a link for 'Need More Information? Glossary of Terms'. There are three columns of checkboxes for 'VERY IMPORTANT', 'IMPORTANT', and 'CONSIDERED' categories across various attributes like secondary school report, class rank, standardized test scores, recommendations, essay, extracurricular activities, alumni/ae relationships, volunteer work, and work experience.

Be sure you honestly rate yourself on how you have done or will do in each area.

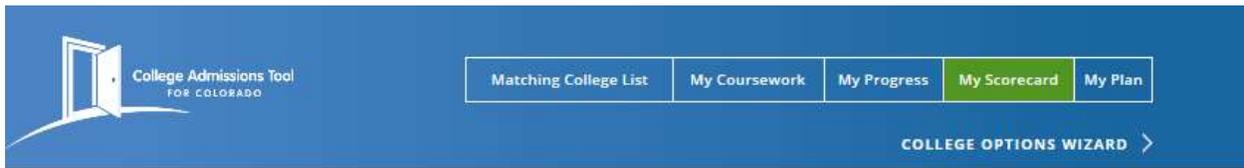
The screenshot shows the 'My Plan' tool interface. The top section is 'Academic Goals' with a sub-header 'edit GPA' and a goal: 'Increase GPA by NaN to be competitive'. Below that is 'edit Coursework' with a list of 'Additional Coursework': 4 English, 4 Mathematics, 3 Natural/Physical Sciences, NaN Social Sciences, 1 World/Foreign Languages, and 2 Academic Electives. The middle section is 'To-do List' with a sub-header 'Application Deadline' and a checkbox 'mark as complete'. Below that is 'mark as complete' with a sub-header 'FAFSA Deadline 11/04/15'. The bottom section is 'Notes' with a sub-header '+ add note'.

- Click on the **“My Plan”** tab. For each favorite college, make a plan! We have given you a start in the GPA and coursework areas, but you can also add items to the to-do list and notes to record those areas you intend to really focus on during the application process.

Be sure to check out the To-Do list and enter application deadlines for both admission and financial aid. Include some deadlines for yourself to write your essay, gather recommendations and anything else the College has listed as important in their decision-making process.

You can also record notes about the college; perhaps the individuals at the college that you have spoken with or your thoughts from a campus tour

- Click on the My Scorecard tab at the top of the page.



In the Average column, you can see whether your honest ranking of coursework and additional considerations important to each college made a difference in your competitiveness.

You should also be able decide those areas and for which colleges you should really focus your efforts during the application process.

GPA	SAT	ACT	Coursework <small>Self-Evaluated</small>	Additional Considerations <small>Self-Evaluated</small>	AVERAGE
Competitive	N/A	Competitive	Competitive	Less Competitive	Less Competitive to Competitive
Less Competitive	N/A	Less Competitive	Less Competitive	Competitive	Less Competitive to Competitive
Competitive	N/A	Competitive	Highly Competitive	Highly Competitive	Competitive to Highly Competitive

- Do you need to change your application approach? Do you have at least a couple of colleges to which you are fairly confident you will be admitted? How can you improve your chances for admission? Talk to your school counselor or advisor for assistance.

Remember that this Tool just gives you some estimates of how competitive you are for admissions, however, each college is a bit different and they all evaluate students on many things – not just GPA, test scores or even courses taken in high school.

Be sure to visit the colleges' websites to get more information – clicking on the College's name will take you to their homepage.