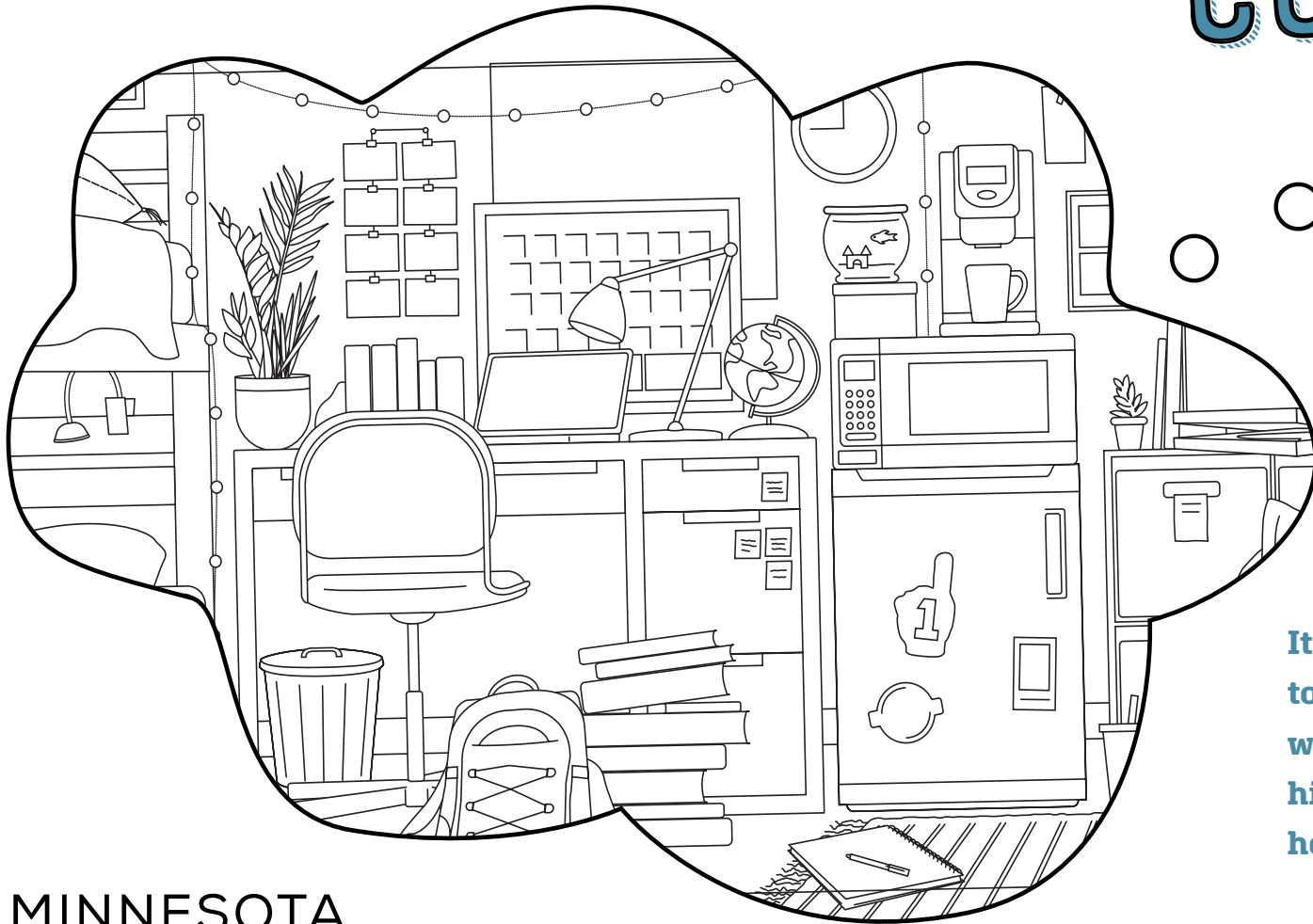


# College Search Toolkit

# IMAGINE YOURSELF AT COLLEGE



It's always a good time  
to start thinking about  
what comes after  
high school. Here's some  
help to get started.



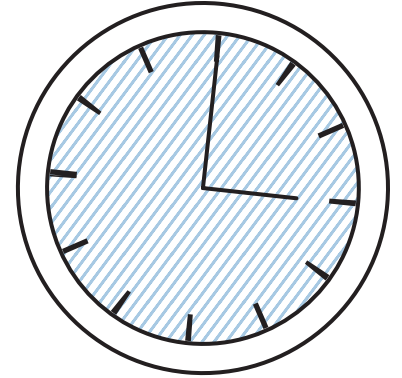
MINNESOTA  
PRIVATE  
COLLEGES

# STEP 1

## DECIDE ON YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH TIMELINE

There are many helpful timelines to keep you on track in your college search process. Visit our website for links to a few of our favorites: [mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning).

But remember, college search plans are just suggestions and you should always adapt any plan or timeline to fit you and your family.



## MY COLLEGE SEARCH GOALS

*Do you have four months or four years to plan?  
Identify some goals that work for you.*

MONTH OR SEASON / YEAR	MONTH OR SEASON / YEAR	MONTH OR SEASON / YEAR	MONTH OR SEASON / YEAR
-----	-----	-----	-----
GOALS	GOALS	GOALS	GOALS

## STEP 2

# FINDING MY COLLEGE FIT

### REFLECT (& BREATHE)

To get a better idea of what is important to you in a college, ask yourself some questions or, if you're a parent of a high school student, ask your teen some questions to get your student thinking about what really matters.

Here are some questions to get you started; you can also visit our website for links to more resources:  
[www.mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/beginning)



What are some things I do well?

What are some things that challenge me?

Do I learn best when I'm academically comfortable or academically challenged?

What are the classes I enjoy the most and why?

# FINDING MY COLLEGE FIT continued

If I could do any job for a day, what would it be?

In which type of college setting am I most/least comfortable?

How close to home do I want to be?



What sort of balance am I looking for between studying and having a social life?

Why do I want to go to college?

What interests do I have, from arts to sports, that I want to dig into?



# STEP 1

## MAKE A LIST OF COLLEGES TO EXPLORE

Now that you have a better sense of what you're looking for in a college, it is time to start looking for schools that fit you academically, socially and culturally.

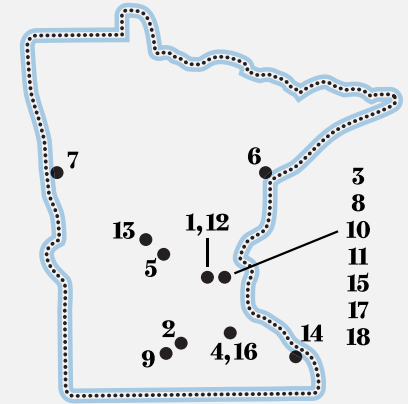
Talk to friends, family members, teachers, coaches and guidance counselors to start compiling a list of schools to explore.

Just remember, there are a lot of great schools out there, but this is about you — what do you want in a college and which one will meet your goals.

▶ _____	▶ _____
▶ _____	▶ _____
▶ _____	▶ _____
▶ _____	▶ _____

***Don't rule out colleges because you think they may be too expensive.***

It is important to know that the listed or "sticker" prices are rarely what families pay. That's thanks to grants and scholarships—money students are not asked to pay back. So a college with a higher listed price could cost less than a college with a lower listed price. Want to get a better idea of what you might pay? Try out a college's net price calculator. You can find links to our colleges' calculators at [mnprivatecolleges.org/calculators](http://mnprivatecolleges.org/calculators).



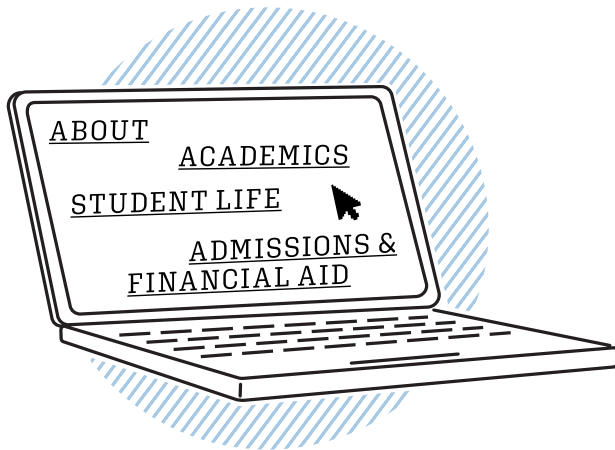
While there are tons of colleges to look at, we encourage you to explore Minnesota private colleges:

- 1** Augsburg University
- 2** Bethany Lutheran College
- 3** Bethel University
- 4** Carleton College
- 5** College of Saint Benedict
- 6** The College of St. Scholastica
- 7** Concordia College, Moorhead
- 8** Concordia University, St. Paul
- 9** Gustavus Adolphus College
- 10** Hamline University
- 11** Macalester College
- 12** Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 13** Saint John's University
- 14** Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
- 15** St. Catherine University
- 16** St. Olaf College
- 17** University of Northwestern – St. Paul
- 18** University of St. Thomas

# STEP 4

## NAVIGATE COLLEGE WEBSITES

College websites offer a lot of information, but it helps to know where to go.



To answer your general questions about the school, the **“About”** section is a good start. To find out what programs of study they offer, visit **“Academics,”** and to find out what students do outside of class, visit “Student Life.” If you’re ready to find out more about applying or other information about enrolling, then check out the **“Admissions”** and **“Financial Aid”** pages.

# QUESTIONS TO ANSWER ABOUT EACH COLLEGE

**TIP:**  
Print a copy of these questions for each school you’re exploring. Or use a Google doc or spreadsheet to keep your answers in one place.



How big (or small) is this school?

What jobs do graduates in that major now have?

What is the average class size?

Does the school offer any tutoring programs or have a writing center?

Do most students graduate on time? If not, why not?

What student clubs, organizations and athletics do they offer?



What does the college promote on social media and on the news pages?

How do students spend their free time, on and off campus?

Does it have different majors that I’m curious about?

Do students mostly live on campus or off campus?



