

1. **Consider ALL Your Options.** Hopefully, you have multiple options on the table, so give them all a fair evaluation. Make a legit Pro/Cons list. Decide what factors matter to you and [“rank” your options](#), take a more practical approach to evaluating and comparing the schools. Drill down on what matters, and eliminate all the stuff that doesn't. Deep dive into researching your options, from all angles.
2. **Visit!** If you haven't visited, go see the schools to which you've been admitted. If you have visited already, and they are local, go see your options again. But, this time, do ALL the things - have lunch in the dining hall, talk to a professor, meet with students, ask all the questions that matter to you. Can you envision yourself here? If you can't afford to visit, do the virtual tours or virtual chats on the college's websites, look up YouTube videos, scroll their social media accounts - do your virtual research. If you want to meet current students, reach out to your admissions representative and ask if they can connect you with a student who has a similar background or major.
3. **Compare your Financial Aid and Merit Aid Offers.** Examine your offers honestly and openly - dollar to dollar, what are your out-of-pocket costs for each college? Where's the value? Can you afford your choice, realistically, for four years? Is Med school, or Law School or any next level degree in your immediate plans, and how much will that cost? Do you want financial independence right after college graduation? What are your realistic salary expectations post graduation? Is your most expensive option that much more valuable to you than your least expensive option...and the schools in between? Have **REAL** finance talks with the entire family.

4. **Go Back to Your 7 Ps.** Tap back into your priorities when you started this journey. What mattered most to you then and what matters now? Has that list changed? Ask yourself the essential question...*what is truly important to me, and why?* Be honest with yourself and with what you need to succeed.

5. **Be Confident in Your Choice.** As with everything in life, doubt will always creep into your mind, but if you are making a choice for what is authentically you, the foundation of why you made that choice will endure, and wash out the details of the doubt as they come. You may wonder “what if I make the wrong decision?” Know that if you are listening to your heart, honestly, you are making the right decision for you at the time you make it. And, truth be told, if you don’t love your choice in a semester, you don’t have to stay, you can change. Don’t focus on the things you may not have, focus on the good things you do have. Comparison is the thief of joy - be confident that you know you best. You’ll find your way.