



A GUIDELINE FOR SELECTING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

“Think of college as an investment. What you invest are time, effort and in some cases, thousands of dollars. What you get back are four years of experience that will help shape every decision you make for the rest of your life.

Too often, high school athletes make the wrong choice of college, either falling for flashy packages presented by high-pressure recruiters or gratefully accepting the first offer to come along.

Since it is your responsibility to be a good investor, you must take an active part in selecting a college compatible with your academic, athletic and social needs.”

STEPHEN FIGLER, Author and Columnist

Congratulations! Because of your athletic involvement, you are now able to choose the direction you wish to take for continuing your career at the collegiate level. This is one of the most important decisions you have to make so far, and the recruiting process can make it very hard to narrow down your choices. As part of the Palatine Celtic SC program, we want to try and help guide you towards the right school for you. The following guide includes some questions you might want to consider helping you in this process when meeting with a coach.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. ACADEMICS

Does the school have the academic field you are interested in?

2. ATHLETICS

Will the program enable you to reach your full potential as an athlete?

3. LOCATION

Does the area of the country, where the school is located, appeal to you?

4. FINANCIALLY

Does the remaining cost (after scholarship consideration), of attending this school, fit within your and your family's budget?

5. CAMPUS

Is the school the right size for you (Ex. Student population, class size, etc..)?

ACADEMICS

1. Does the school have a good academic reputation?
2. Does the school offer a variety of academic majors, you might be interested in?
3. Is there an Academic Counseling Unit, within the Athletic Department, that will help me balance my academic / athletic careers?
4. Do the coach and the athletic departments emphasize academic goals and disciplines?

ATHLETICS

1. Does the school compete on a level appropriate for you? (DI, II, III, or NAIA, Junior College)
2. Is the soccer program well supported by the athletic department?
3. Will the facilities (weight room, practice and game fields) help or hinder your athletic development?
4. Is the program improving and making goals that will challenge you?
5. Do you think the coaching staff will train you hard enough to achieve your athletic goals?
6. Will the team be competitive in their conference / region?
7. Do the returning players seem cohesive, as a team?
8. Is there a spring season? (some Division 3 programs do not have one)
9. What are the coaches summer training expectations?

LOCATION

1. Are you looking for a metropolitan area or college town?
2. Is the school too far away from home or too close?
3. Does the local community support the school and get involved with school activities?
4. Is the weather, in the area of the college, an important decision?
5. Are there recreational activities available to you that you may enjoy?

FINANCIAL

1. Will you be receiving athletic scholarship money?
2. Can you qualify for any other types of financial aid or academic money?
3. Will you be able to earn more scholarship money, each year?
4. How much, per year, will it cost you to attend this school? Can you and your family afford the remaining cost after scholarship?

CAMPUS

1. Do you feel comfortable with the size of the campus?
2. What is the student enrollment of the school?
3. Where is the school, geographically, in relation to other large cities?
4. Do you like the dorm / resident hall set-up? What are off-campus options?
5. Can freshman have cars at school their first year?