

## College Research Paper

Choosing a college is not a decision to take lightly. It involves numerous factors, including, cost, location, postgraduate success, and other factors that will shape your college experience and future success. Considering the weight of this decision, it's important that I take into consideration my personal preferences and desires that will determine if a college is right for me.

As of right now, I am planning to major in psychology, so it is important to me to find a school that has a quality psychology program. One of my biggest needs is to find a college that is close to home, because I feel that I am not quite ready to be on my own yet. It's important to me that the college I attend has a high graduate and career attainment rate. Attending a college that has a high graduation and career attainment rate would make me feel more confident in knowing that I chose a college that will guide me to living a successful life. The cost of tuition is also important. My goal is to attend a college that has a tuition cost no higher than \$20,000. Some colleges I am considering that meet most of these personal requirements include the Pennsylvania State University, York College, and the University of Pittsburgh.

The Pennsylvania State University, also known as Penn State, is located in University Park, Pennsylvania. It is routinely ranked one of the best places to live in the country, and in 2010 was ranked at the third-safest metropolitan area in the United States. Penn State is one of the more expensive schools in Pennsylvania. Residents of Pennsylvania pay an annual price of about \$17,400 for tuition, \$11,500 for room and board, and \$1,800 for books in supplies. This means that it would cost about \$120,000 to earn a bachelor's degree from Penn State. Even though the cost is high, Penn State is one of the top ten colleges in Pennsylvania. Penn State has a graduation rate of 85% and a career attainment rate of 97%. Penn State offers a bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degree in psychology. As of 2019, Penn State ranked #55 out of all colleges and universities that offer a psychology program and are in the top 10% of our country's psychology programs. Penn State has an acceptance rate of 56%. In order to get into Penn State you should attain a 3.58 GPA and an SAT score of at least 1160.

One of my favorite things about this college is the location. I like that this college is only an hour or two away from where I live now, and I also feel comfortable knowing this college is in a safe location. I also feel that the price isn't too bad considering the other colleges I'm considering applying to. The graduation and career attainment rates are also very high, which is important to help me succeed in the future. I'm also glad that Penn State offers a quality psychology program. After researching this college, I feel that this school would be able to set me up for a successful life and career. I also feel that attending this college would give me a positive college experience.

York College is a private institution located in York, Pennsylvania. It is considered an average quality college. York College is on the more expensive side. In 2019, the annual cost to

attend York College was about \$18,180 for tuition, \$11,200 for room and board, and \$1,200 was books and other supplies. This means that it would cost about \$122,000 to earn a bachelor's degree from York College. York College has a 70% acceptance rate and a 60% graduation rate. In order to get into York College you should attain at least a 3.1 GPA. York College's psychology program is ranked #614 in the country and is ranked #38 in Pennsylvania. Most students who attend York College fall between a 3.1 to 3.9 GPA. An SAT or ACT are not required to apply for York College, but it could improve your chances of getting in. Most students fall between 970-1140 SAT score or 20-25 ACT score.

The main reason I would consider applying to this college is to stay close to home. If I were to attend this college I would be able to live at home, which would save me a lot of money on room and board. The graduation rate concerns me because I personally feel that a 60% graduation rate is too low. Considering their psychology program is ranked #614 in the country, York College is not ideal for a psychology major. Out of the three schools on this list, this is probably the school I would be least likely to choose.

The University of Pittsburgh, also known as Pitt, is located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is ranked the 23rd best location for colleges in the United States. Pitt admissions is selective with an acceptance rate of 59%. Students that get into Pitt have an average SAT score between 1270-1430 or an average ACT score between 28-33. In order to get into Pitt you should attain a GPA of about 4.07. The cost to attend the University of Pittsburgh is about \$18,000 for tuition for in-state residents, \$11,500 for room and board, and \$800 for books and supplies. This means that it would cost about \$121,000 to earn a bachelor's degree from Pitt. Pitt has a graduation rate of 81% and a career attainment rate of 97%. Pitt's psychology program is ranked #48 in the country and #1 in Pennsylvania.

For the major I am considering, this school would be the most ideal considering it is ranked #48 in the country, and it has the best psychology program out of the three schools I have on this list. The graduation and career attainment rates are also very high, which means this school has the ability to prepare me for a successful career. Another thing I like about this school is the location. Since Pitt is located in the city, there would be a lot to do and experience.

As stated in the introduction, choosing a college is a tough decision that shouldn't be taken lightly. After researching these three colleges and writing this paper, I have a better idea of which schools I would consider applying to. The school I would most like to attend is either the University of Pittsburgh or the Pennsylvania State University. Both schools were ranked high for their psychology programs, and they were both located in good locations. The school I would be the least likely to apply for is York College, because of their low rank for their psychology program, and their low graduation and career attainment rates. I now have a better chance of choosing a college that would set me up for success.