

COLLEGE RECRUITING

THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS OF CONSIDERATION

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I. ACADEMICS

Does this school have the academic curriculum that you are interested in?

II. ATHLETICS

Is this the appropriate level for your abilities? Would you be happy with this team?

III. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Can you spend four years of your life there? Would you choose this school if you were not swimming?

IV. FINANCIAL

Can you afford this school? This area? Will you receive academic or athletic aid? Is this school financially secure enough to continue its current level of commitment to swimming?

V. INSTITUTION SIZE

Are you going to be comfortable in a big school or would you prefer a small school?

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Does this school have a solid academic reputation?
- B. Do they have a graduate program that fits your interests?
- C. Upon graduation, what percent of the students get jobs in your field of study?
- D. In order to gain experience, are summer internships or employment available in your field of study?
- E. Ask former students about the program.
- F. What percent of student-athletes graduate? What percent of swimmers graduate?
- G. Is tutoring available? Cost?
- H. Is there academic counseling available?

ATHLETIC CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Do you like the staff and team?
- B. Are you choosing the appropriate level of competition for yourself?
- C. Can you make the travel team? (Top 18-21)
- D. Will you be able to compete in the championship meet? (Top 18-21)
- E. Does the history of the staff and team meet your needs?
- F. Is this level of training intensity what you are looking for? Yardage? Type of training?
- G. Of what value is the swimming program to the athletic department, the community, and the state?
- H. Ask former swimmers about the program.
- I. Do you want a coed or a separate training environment?
- J. Are you aware of the coach's strengths and weaknesses?
- K. If the program is not coed, what is the relationship between the men's and women's program?
- L. Can you fit in socially with this team?
- M. Do they have a spring training program?
- N. What are the coach's summer training expectations?
- O. What type and amount of strength training is available?
- P. How many practices per week are required?
- Q. How much travel is required? i.e. – Time away from classes?
- R. Is there a Christmas training trip? How much will it cost?
- S. What are the goals of the program?
- T. What is the possibility of dropping the men's or women's program?

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

- A. Are you looking for a metropolitan or rural college setting?
- B. If that is important to you, can you afford the cost of travel to and from home for holidays?
- C. Do you like to travel home for the weekend or to have family and friends come watch your competitions? Consider the distance from home.
- D. Weather – is the sunshine and warm weather important in selecting a college?

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Can you afford this school?
- B. What type of aid or financial assistance is available?
Consider: Grants; Student Loans, Work Study, Departmental Aid, Academic scholarships, Athletic scholarships
- C. What does it take (times), to receive an athletic scholarship?
- D. How much athletic scholarship might you qualify for? (Percentage)
- E. Can I earn an athletic scholarship, or increase my current one, through improved performance?

INSTITUTION SIZE

- A. What size school are you looking for?
- B. Which type of school will you thrive in?
Consider: NCAA Div. I NCAA Div. II NCAA Div. III NAIA
 Junior College Community College
 Service Academy

MAKING THE DECISION

- A. Choose 6-10 school that fit your criteria.
- B. Make a folder/notebook for each of those schools.
- C. Develop a list of coach's addresses for each of those schools
- D. Draft a letter to those coaches/schools and include the following:
 - 1. ACT and/or SAT scores
 - 2. High School GPA and Class Rank
 - 3. What you major might be in college.
 - 4. High school and Club coach's name, address, e-mail address, phone #.
 - 5. Best events and times for both short and long course.
 - 6. Financial needs.
 - 7. Future goals and ambitions.
 - 8. Brief history of your training.
 - 9. Birth date, height, weight.
 - 10. Ask if you can visit the campus. Give a good time. The coach will let you know if your visit will be an official or unofficial visit.
 - 11. Ask for a brochure and information on the team and school.
 - 12. Ask for admissions standards and ask to have an application sent.
 - 13. Ask for a college catalogue.

PLANNING YOUR COLLEGE VISIT

- A. Plan to visit early to allow you time to think over the information you have learned from the visit so you do not feel rushed.
- B. Have a goal date in mind by which you would like to have finished your campus visits.
- C. NCAA rules allow only five official visits. The visits to each school may not exceed 48 hours. There are no limits on unofficial visits.

THE COLLEGE VISIT

- A. Take notes and record in your notebook the pros and cons of the program, school, etc.
- B. Talk to academic advisors and other students.
- C. NCAA rules do not permit prospective athletes to train with the college team during a visit.
- D. Get to know the team and coaches.
- E. Visit all the training areas. Tour the campus, classrooms, dorms, dining halls, etc.
- F. Visit a class in session in your possible area of major of academic interest.
- G. Visit with a professor or department chairperson in your major area of academic interest
- H. Be sure to ask questions – this is your decision and it affects your future!
- I. DO NOT take a trip unless you are truly interested in that school.

CONTINUING COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Stay in contact with the coach – updates times and academics
- B. Respond immediately to correspondences and inquiries from the coach
- C. Expect phone calls.