

Starting your college search? Start with Match & Fit.



MATCH & FIT LIST BUILDER

A Partnership Between Achieve Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools

The **Match & Fit List Builder** provides you with a starting place in your college search by helping you build a **balanced college list**—a critical step in the college-going process.

Who can use the Match & Fit List Builder?

If you are an **Atlanta Public Schools junior**, you have access to the online Match & Fit List Builder. **APS counselors** also have access to the Match & Fit List Builder's counselor view.

Why do I need to think about Match & Fit?

You should make sure to find a college where you are likely to do well and **earn a degree or credential**. How do you know what to look for? You should look for colleges that are a good academic match and a strong financial, personal, and social fit.

How do I access the Match & Fit List Builder?

You can access the Match & Fit List Builder through **MyBackPack** or by visiting achieveatlanta.org/matchandfit.

Once you are logged in, you can adjust your profile, choose your fit preferences, see your college options, and **build your list**.

For more information visit
achieveatlanta.org/matchandfit

 
[@achieveatlanta](https://twitter.com/achieveatlanta)
[@apsupdate](https://www.instagram.com/apsupdate)

Why should I use the Match & Fit List Builder?

You should use the Match & Fit List Builder by the end of junior year to put together a balanced college list—a list of schools that meet your academic, personal, social, and financial needs and interests.

Your list should include at least 2 colleges in each of the academic match categories: Target, Reach, and Likely.

Why do you list the college's graduation rate?

A college's graduation rate is an important piece of information about the college—it tells you the likelihood of a student earning a degree or credential. It also often signals a college's ability to support students either academically and/or financially. While not the only factor to consider when deciding where to apply and enroll, it is an important one.

Will this limit my options for college?

No! In fact, the opposite. We have found that many students are not aware of all the colleges that could be great options for them! And, because the List Builder shows you which colleges have admissions criteria aligned to your academic profile, you'll have a better idea of which colleges are a good academic match.

What do Target, Reach, and Likely mean?

Target Colleges:

Your academic profile is within the college/university's average range. You have a good chance of being admitted.

Reach Colleges:

Your academic profile is lower than the college/university's average range. It's possible you will be admitted, but it's a stretch. Reach colleges can also be highly selective institutions that are hard to gain admission to, even for students with the highest GPAs and test scores.

Likely Colleges:

Your academic profile exceeds the college/university's average range. You have a strong chance of being admitted. These are also known as "undermatch" colleges, where students may be less likely to earn a degree or credential.

What are my chances of being admitted to a Target, Likely, or Reach school?

There is no exact science to college admissions. The match categories help give you a general idea based upon your academic profile, past APS students' college applications, and national data on college selectivity. That's why you should apply to multiple colleges across all match categories so that you have options.

Why do you ask about my household income?

The List Builder asks for your annual household income to provide you with more accurate information about the potential cost of the colleges on your list. Families who make less money often pay less for college. If you do not know your annual household income, we encourage you to ask your parent or guardian to help you choose which category best fits your family's annual income, so that you can get a better idea of college costs.

What does Estimated Cost Per Year mean?

The Estimated Cost Per Year is the average amount of what students pay each year after federal and institutional grants/scholarships are deducted. Important! The Estimated Cost Per Year does NOT take into account the Achieve Atlanta Scholarship or HOPE Scholarships or Grants!

To learn more about Estimated Cost Per Year, visit the FAQs section of our website: achieveatlanta.org/matchandfit

What do I do once I have built my college list?

First, make sure it is a balanced list. As you finish out your junior year, continue to research colleges and update your list as you gain a clearer picture of the type of college you want to attend—and as your academic profile changes. Share your list with your family and your counselor or college adviser to see if they have further recommendations on colleges to consider. At the start of senior year, finalize this list and begin applying to college!

