

10 Questions to Start the Process

Answer these questions to help narrow from *all* the options!

1) What do you want to study?

- General areas of study are easy to work with & find schools
- Super specific majors can really clarify the field of schools you're willing to look at

2) Combined, Separate or Gender-isolated program?

- combined programs – one head coach & staff over men's & women's
- separate programs – one head coach & staff over EACH gender
- gender isolated – school only offers program for one gender (usually women's)

3) Football or No Football?

- Football affects Title 9 compliance more than any other sport, as there is no comparable women's sport. Therefore, 'non-revenue' men's sports at these school may suffer as a result. In some cases (at UCLA and plenty of others) men's swimming has been cut altogether for this reason.
- A powerhouse football program can be indicative of community support of athletes and general excitement about athletics. (In good ways and bad!)

4) Male or Female head coach?

- Some athletes work better with one gender or another

5) Commitment Preference – year round, Sept-May or seasonal?

- Year round – look D1 or top 10 D2 programs
- Sept-May – Mid Major D1 (those without full funding) or D2 or top D3
- Seasonal – lower end D2, D3 or club swimming

6) Size of School Preference?

- Under 4000, 4-10K, 10-20K, Super School Under 4000 – D3, D2, NAIA, NJCAA – this is generally HS sized
- 4-10K – D2, D1 (private), NJCAA – some D3 fall in here too
- 10-20K – most state schools fall in here
- 20K+ - Ohio State, USC, Georgia, NCSU etc. BIG schools.

7) Type of experience?

- Walk-on, Recruited Walk-on, Partial, Full Walk-on – zero contact with coach until admitted, then either tryout or
- JV team Recruited Walk-on – Official/Unofficial visit, guaranteed spot on team, can have academic \$\$
- Partial Scholarship – ranges from covering textbooks (~\$1000) to 75% or more – guaranteed spot, usually what kids can expect from the athletic side of things, expected to score at conference/NCAAs

- Full Scholarship – VERY RARE. You'd better be one of the absolute best, and ready to immediately score points at the biggest meets.

8) *Finances?*

- Parents need to be VERY clear with how much they can spend/want to spend
- Scholarships are NOT a guarantee of admittance. This is something that has shifted quite a bit in recent years. Coaches no longer have the sway they once did to admit recruits who may not meet admission guidelines.
- Combining athletic & academic aid is sometimes an option, but not always.

9) *Location?*

- Be open-minded, but trust your instincts!
- Depending on career path, may result in their future residence

10) *Intangibles?*

- What do they value in their relationship with the coach?
- What do they enjoy about their current team experience?
- What type of living environment do they prefer?

(information pulled from a presentation prepared by Alexis Keto)