



# COLLEGE PLAN

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## WHERE DO I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE?

### ACADEMICS

1. Four Year College / Two Year College
2. Majors / Areas of Study
3. Class Sizes
4. Student to Faculty Ratio
5. Graduation Success Rate: Team & Athletic Department
6. **Can I Succeed Here?**

### LOCATION

1. In-State / Out-of-State
2. Urban / Rural
3. Traveling On Campus / Off Campus
  - a. Nearest Airport
  - b. Nearest Bus/Train
4. Weather

### EXPERIENCE

1. Public / Private
2. Big / Medium/ Small
3. Culture: Commuter vs. Community
  - a. Campus Life vs. Off-Campus
4. Dormitories / Campus Housing / Student Life
  - a. Athlete Dorms / Student Dorms
  - b. Roommate Options
  - c. Food: Dining Halls / Cafeteria
5. Off-Campus Living
  - a. Apartments / Rentals
  - b. Meals: Can you cook?
6. Campus Safety
  - a. Police / Fire on Campus?
  - b. Crime & Safety Statistics
  - c. Proximity to Hospital / Medical Services
  - d. Emergency Situation Protocol

## COST

1. Tuition
2. Room & Board
3. Books
4. Other Fees
5. Payment for College: Do I Need a Scholarship to Play?
  - a. College Fund: Do I Have One?
  - b. How Much Student Loan Debt is Okay?
  - c. Can I Pay This Back Upon Graduation?
6. **Do I Want a Degree From This School with Student Debt?**

## FINANCIAL AID

1. Need Based Aid
  - a. University Grants
  - b. Federal / State Grants
2. Academics Merit Based Aid
  - a. University Scholarships
  - b. Outside Scholarships
3. Athletic Scholarships
4. Student Loans

# WHAT DO I WANT FROM A SOCCER EXPERIENCE?

## SOCCER

1. Can I Play Here?
  - a. Will I Qualfy for an Athletic Scholarship?
  - b. Can I Walk-on?
  - c. Am I Willing to Sit the Bench & Wait My Turn?
  - d. Do I Want to Play Right Away?
  - e. What Division of Soccer?
    - i. NCAA Division I, II, III
    - ii. NAIA
    - iii. NJCAA
  - f. What Style of Soccer Do I Want to Play?
  - g. How Do the Coaches & Players Interact?
2. Coaching Staff
  - a. Head Coach
  - b. Assistant Coaches
3. Support Staff
  - a. Director of Operations
  - b. Athletic Trainer / Team Doctor
  - c. Strength and Conditioning / Sports Performance
  - d. Nutritionist
  - e. Mental Coach / Sports Psychologist
4. Technology
  - a. Video Analysis
  - b. Heart Rate Monitors
  - c. GPS Tracking
  - d. Recovery Systems
  - e. Body Composition
5. Athletic Facilities
  - a. Stadium / Home Field
    - i. Capacity
    - ii. Typical Crowd
    - iii. On or Off Campus
  - b. Locker Room
  - c. Practice Facility
  - d. Weight Room / Strength & Conditioning
  - e. Training Room / Medical Facilities
6. Roster Size

7. Position Breakdown
  - a. Graduating Class Breakdown
  - b. Travel Roster Size
8. Competition
  - a. Conference Schedule
  - b. Non-Conference Schedule
9. Team Travel
  - a. Typical Travel Schedule
  - b. Transportation: Vans, Bus, Commercial Air, Charter Flight
  - c. Hotel and Meals
10. Time Commitment
  - a. Typical Season Schedule
  - b. Off-Season Schedule
  - c. Vacation / Break Expectations
11. Apparel
  - a. School / Team Sponsor (adidas, Nike, Under Armour)
  - b. Equipment Provided by School
    - i. Footwear, Apparel, Gear, Backpack

# COMMUNICATE WITH COACHES & COLLEGES

## THE BASICS

### 1. The Rules

- a. I Can Contact Coaches at Any Time
- b. NCAA DI Coaches: Can Contact Athletes After July 1 Entering Junior Year
- c. Questionnaires & Camp Information: Exception to Rules

### 2. Ways to Contact College Coaches

- a. Email
- b. Handwritten Letter
- c. Social Media
- d. Video
- e. Phone Call
- f. Through a Coach

### 3. Writing an Email

- a. Personalized Introduction
- b. Body: Explain Why I Would Be a Good Fit
- c. Invite to Watch a Game with Upcoming Schedule
- d. Signature
- e. Include the Following:
  - i. Full Name
  - ii. Email Address, Phone Number
  - iii. Graduation Year
  - iv. Team Name, Age Group, Jersey Number
  - v. Coach Name, Email Address, Phone Number
  - vi. Social Media Handles (Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat)
- f. Attach a Player Profile Sheet
- g. Tips for Email
  - i. Appropriate Address
  - ii. Personalize Email
  - iii. Get Attention
  - iv. Be Brief & Sharp

### 4. Mail / Handwritten Note: Easy to Personalize, Hard to Ignore

- a. Personalized Introduction
- b. Body: Explain Why I Would Be a Good Fit
- c. Invite to Watch a Game with Upcoming Schedule
- d. Signature
- e. Include the Following:

- i. Full Name
    - ii. Email Address, Phone Number
    - iii. Graduation Year
    - iv. Team Name, Age Group, Jersey Number
    - v. Coach Name, Email Address, Phone Number
  - f. Attach a Player Profile Sheet
  - g. Tips for Email
    - i. Appropriate Address
    - ii. Personalize Email
    - iii. Get Attention
    - iv. Be Brief & Sharp
- 5. Social Media
  - a. Follow / Like: Teams, Coaches & Players
  - b. Coaches Can Follow / Like Your Content
    - i. Coaches Want to Research You
    - ii. College Admissions Are Checking Social Media Accounts
  - c. Direct Messages Are Same as Email / Mail
  - d. Marketing for Coaches
    - i. My Image
    - ii. What Am I About?
- 6. Video
  - a. Put Together Video with Highlights & Game Footage
  - b. Have Coach Approve
  - c. Show All Aspects of My Game
  - d. Video vs Comparable Competition
- 7. Phone Calls
  - a. Be Prepared
    - i. Greeting / Introduction (Full Name)
    - ii. Express Interest
    - iii. Invite Coach to Game
    - iv. Have Questions Prepared
  - b. Refer to Email I Sent
  - c. Stand Up, Speak Up, Talk Clearly
- 8. Contact via Club Coach
  - a. Club Coaches are a Great Contact
  - b. College Coaches Want Club Coaches Point of View
  - c. Club Coaches Can Be More Objective
  - d. Club Coaches Can Get More Information
  - e. Club / College Coaches Have an Ongoing Relationship