



Involve your parents

Choosing the college that's right for you is most likely the biggest decision you've faced. It's a decision that will shape your future and impact the rest of your life.

Lean on your parents

Don't make the decision alone. Ask your parents for help and support in making your college decision. Your parents make important decisions every day. Their wisdom and experience can be a useful tool in sifting through college pros and cons.

They have experience

Parents only want the best for their child. Providing honest and sincere guidance on decisions you are making about your future will give you confidence you are making the right choice. Plus, they have even more right to feedback if they went to college themselves. Sure that was a while ago — but they know how the system works and can give great anecdotal tips about campus activities, the school's location and the overall college experience.

Who knows you best?

Parents know you best! Dissuading you from one choice, in favor of another, is only to help you accomplish the goals you're setting out to achieve in life. They want to ensure the real you will love the school you attend and find many outlets for success, academically and socially.

They are financially involved

Although we're talking about the next four years of your life here; parents

may be helping you pay for it. That's yet another reason you should consider their opinion. They see college as an investment in your future, but it's also coming out of their savings account — so it's also an investment in their eyes.

Try this activity: Have a friend or relative be the mediator and ask you and then your parents the same questions:

1. Where should you go to school: near or far away?

YOU: _____

YOUR PARENTS: _____

2. What is your top choice university? Why?

YOU: _____

YOUR PARENTS: _____

3. What kind of major should you have?

YOU: _____

YOUR PARENTS: _____

Write out your answers without discussing them — then do a big reveal. Talk about the answers — were they different? Were they the same? Having a talk about where and why you disagree is a great step toward making the right college choice. In the end, all your parents want is for you to be happy. Keep them in the loop, and they'll help you make the informed decision you'll be happy with.

Read more!

Find out how else you can involve your parents at NextStepU.com/Parents

