



## **Self-Evaluation: The First Step to Choosing the Right College**

*Self-evaluation sounds a lot more complicated than it is. It's really just finding out about yourself. The following questions will get you started.*

### **Do I know who I am?**

Before you focus too much on your future, look in the mirror and think about what is best for you. When students know themselves – their strengths, interests, the type of environment that will best support them – then they'll know what they need to thrive.

### **Why am I going to college?**

What is driving your decision? Are going to pursue your dreams? Do you just want to learn more? Do your teachers, parents, and/or friends want you to go?

### **Do I have a specific goal in mind, or am I going to college to broaden my general knowledge?**

Some students know they want to be electrical engineers. Period. Others have no clue where a college degree might lead them; they just know they want to start down that path. Both mindsets are fine. If you don't have a specific goal or a general reason, put some thought into it and develop one.

### **What would make me comfortable in a college setting?**

The climate, makeup of the student body, institution size, location, and course selection are contributing factors to your comfort level at a specific campus. Identify recreational activities, hobbies, and other interests that are important to you. Any reason you come up with is relevant.

### **What will inspire me to reach my highest potential?**

Perhaps you need to be challenged to go beyond what you think you can achieve. You might like the cozy atmosphere of a small rural campus. Or maybe you need the intellectual and social stimulation of a large urban university. Do you want a campus where you immediately fit right in, or would you rather find a place that will force you to adapt to unfamiliar situations?

### **“Who Am I?” Checklist**

Now ask yourself these questions, and you'll have a good idea of who you are:

- What do I do well?
- What are my strengths? What are my weaknesses?
- What's important to me?
- How hard do I want to work?
- What kind of environment will reflect my values?
- Do I need special support of any kind?
- In what kind of setting do I like to live?
- What skills should I learn or develop?
- Am I a self-directed person, or do I need guidance?
- Am I a qualitative person (enjoy working with people, for instance) or a quantitative person (comfortable with math)?
- What do I find satisfying? What do I find tedious?
- Is family part of my support system? Am I part of my family's support system?
- Where do I see myself in 10 years?