



TIPS FOR PARA SWIMMERS SEARCHING FOR COLLEGE

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORES



Do you want to be a part of varsity collegiate swimming or a club?
Para swimmers have opportunities to swim in college.

INITIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Q #1: Does the college have your academic interests and what is the reputation?

- Determine your learning style
- What majors interest you and what are the options for post graduate studies
- Key entrance requirements
- How large are the class sizes and does that suit you

Q #2: Athletically do you match up with the school talent level in swimming?

- Compare the team's talent depth to your talent level
- Get an honest evaluation of your abilities
- Be aware of the NCAA divisions, the rules of each, and the differences that exist.
- Be able to explain your disability and what you might need for accommodations.
- Decide the type of athletic experience you want.

Q #3: Socially what do you need?

- Size of campus—small, medium, or large
- Location of campus to your home and support system
- Extracurricular opportunities

Take the right path to finding the best college fit for you!

ADVANTAGES OF AN EARLY SEARCH

Studies indicate that 95% of high school students will participate in collegiate sports. Studies also indicate that the rigors of high school curriculum is the single best predictor of success in college. Prospective college athletes get noticed & recruited in many ways. Search for schools that fit your needs across different dimensions.



ADD VALUE TO YOUR SEARCH

1. Research your interests in and out of class. Figure out what you like to do. Soul search!
2. Create a "long" list of options—the broad view. Include a few schools that are reaching or stretching, likely, and safety options.
3. Focus on your ACT or SAT test scores. Having a score above the school's average range will increase your odds of admission and the number you can apply to.
4. Keep organized records/notes of your research findings.
5. Keep track of your accomplishments. You will want to create a student-athlete profile resume. This will allow the coach to get a snap shot of you.
6. Clean up social media accounts.
7. Establish an email address dedicated to college information. (Note, coaches know when a parent is making the contact verses the student-athlete.) Send your own emails!