

# THE FUNNEL

Before beginning your college search, you'll want to "funnel" your options; in other words, narrow down your list by answering a few questions about your situation.

A hand-drawn notepad with a black outline. On the left side, there are five small circles representing binder holes. The title "My Notes" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font in the top right corner. The notepad is ruled with horizontal lines: two orange lines near the top and several light blue lines below them. The bottom right corner of the notepad is folded over.

**MAJOR.** Is the degree program you are interested in available at the college? While your degree choice may change over time, it is important that the school you choose at least has your general area of interest available.

**DISTANCE.** How far are you willing to go away from home? Or, perhaps more importantly, how far is your family willing to let you go? Be honest with yourself!

**SCHOOL SIZE.** Do you want a small school experience, like Southwestern Christian University with 500 students, or a larger experience, like University of Oklahoma with over 29,000 students?

**COMMUNITY SIZE.** Do you want to attend school in a “college town” like Manhattan, Kansas, an urban community like Oklahoma City University, or in a rural community such as NWOSU in Alva, Oklahoma?

**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY.** Do you want to attend a school with a significant Indigenous population or an active Indigenous student association?

**RELIGION.** Is it important for you to be in an environment supportive of your faith? Many secular schools have religious student organizations. There are also faith-based schools.

**DIVERSITY.** Do you want to be somewhere that has and supports ethnic, cultural, and racial diversity? Make sure to research colleges that actively support these efforts.

**SPORTS.** Is playing college athletics a deal breaker for you? If so, this will limit the number of schools you can choose from.

**COST.** What will the college cost, and what internal scholarships are available? Not affordable? Think again.

**FEDERAL GRANTS.** Will you qualify for a federal grant?

**STATE GRANTS.** Will you qualify for grants offered by your state?

**TRIBAL FUNDING.** Does your tribe offer funding?

Just like buying a car, you may want luxury, but affordable options offer the same opportunities.

Many schools have religious student organizations. There are also faith-affiliated colleges which may also offer unique scholarships.

Students must typically be enrolled Tribal citizens to receive funding. This is also true when seeking tuition waivers and scholarships at Tribal colleges, although there are some exceptions. Many Tribes also provide clothing allowances, technology grants (free laptops), and one-time emergency grants to their college students. Check with your tribal education department!

More info on **Page 7!**