A PRINTABLE & DIGITAL PLANNING KIT

School Comparison Kit

Research programs. Understand the costs. Compare your options before you apply.

PRINT THE SCHOOL PROFILE AS MANY TIMES AS YOU NEED

You may not need every page.

Designed for US Letter paper and compatible PDF editors.

01 / START HERE

Before You Apply

Use this checklist for each school as you gather information. Not every item applies to every school.
Tip: Ask each program for a current, itemized cost estimate in writing.

PROGRAM & ADMISSIONS

- [ ] Accreditation and credential awarded
- [ ] Prerequisites and minimum grades
- [ ] Application deadline and start dates
- [ ] Program length, schedule and format

FULL COST

- [ ] Total tuition across all terms
- [ ] Mandatory fees, books and equipment
- [ ] Travel, housing and childcare
- [ ] Licensing, exams and graduation fees

QUALITY & SUPPORT

- [ ] Completion and graduation outcomes
- [ ] Licensing or board outcomes, if applicable
- [ ] Clinical, internship or practical placements
- [ ] Academic and career support

PERSONAL FIT

- [ ] Commute or relocation needs
- [ ] Ability to work during the program
- [ ] Financial aid and scholarship deadlines
- [ ] Student experiences and unanswered questions

02 / DUPLICATE FOR EACH SCHOOL

School Profile · Overview

Print or duplicate pages 3–4 together for every school you are considering.

SCHOOL / INSTITUTION

PROGRAM / CREDENTIAL

CAMPUS / LOCATION

PROGRAM FORMAT / SCHEDULE

LENGTH / START DATE

ADMISSIONS & APPLICATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE

APPLICATION FEE

PREREQUISITES / REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

ACCREDITATION / LICENSING ELIGIBILITY

QUESTIONS TO ASK ADMISSIONS

03 / DUPLICATE FOR EACH SCHOOL

School Profile · Costs & Fit

Use the same school name as on the previous page.

SCHOOL / PROGRAM

PROGRAM EXPENSES

TUITION — ENTIRE PROGRAM

MANDATORY SCHOOL FEES

BOOKS / EQUIPMENT / SUPPLIES

EXAMS / LICENSING / PLACEMENT

TRAVEL / HOUSING / CHILDCARE

OTHER EXPENSES

OUTCOMES & PERSONAL FIT

GRADUATION RATE / LICENSING EXAM PASS RATE

FINANCIAL AID / SCHOLARSHIPS

WHAT I LIKE / WHAT CONCERNS ME

04 / BUDGET

The True Cost of Attending

Use this worksheet for one program, or copy it to compare different budgets.

SCHOOL / PROGRAM

Tuition for full program	AMOUNT
School fees and required materials	AMOUNT
Certification / licensing / examination	AMOUNT
Transportation / relocation	AMOUNT
Additional living / childcare expenses	AMOUNT
Estimated income reduced while in school	AMOUNT
Scholarships, grants and employer support (subtract)	AMOUNT

YOUR ESTIMATE

ESTIMATED TOTAL TO FUND

AMOUNT YOU MAY NEED TO BORROW

05 / COMPARE

Schools at a Glance

Use this page after completing the profiles. Add a second copy for more schools.

CATEGORY	SCHOOL A	SCHOOL B	SCHOOL C
School / program			
Credential & duration			
Tuition + required fees			
Other expected costs			
Financial aid available			
Location / schedule			
Graduation / exam outcomes			
Clinical or career opportunities			
Biggest advantage			
Biggest concern			

06 / DECIDE

What Matters Most to Me

The lowest-cost program is not automatically the best fit. Define your priorities.

MY TOP PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1

PRIORITY 2

PRIORITY 3

MY CURRENT SHORTLIST

FIRST CHOICE AND WHY

SECOND CHOICE AND WHY

WHAT INFORMATION IS STILL MISSING?

07 / NEXT STEPS

My Application Plan

Turn your research into a manageable plan.

UPCOMING DEADLINES & ACTIONS

ACTION / TASK	DUE DATE

FINAL REMINDERS

- [ ] Confirm requirements directly with the school
- [ ] Check that tuition and fee estimates are current
- [ ] Save links, emails and notes with each school profile
- [ ] Revisit the decision before paying nonrefundable fees