



DOWNLOADABLE 1 — The Black Student Fit Checklist

How to Use the Fit Checklist

1. Print or save a copy before each campus visit or virtual tour.
This ensures you're prepared to evaluate the school in real time, not just after the fact.
2. Walk through each of the five dimensions of fit:
 - Cultural Fit — Does the campus affirm Black identity and offer visible, funded support?
 - Academic Fit — Are there systems in place to help Black students succeed and graduate?
 - Social Fit — Will your child feel safe, connected, and supported in daily life?
 - Financial Fit — Can your family afford this school without harmful borrowing?
 - Structural Fit — Are the policies and leadership built to protect and empower Black students?
3. Use the checklist to guide your questions.
Ask admissions officers, tour guides, and current students about the items listed. If they hesitate, deflect, or don't know—note that.
4. Score or annotate each item based on what you observe.
You can use a simple system like:
 - Yes, clearly present
 -  Unclear or weak
 -  Not present or concerning
5. Debrief with your student after the visit.
Use the checklist to reflect together: What felt affirming? What raised concerns? What needs follow-up?
6. Compare schools side by side.
After visiting multiple campuses, lay out the completed checklists and look for patterns. Which schools consistently support Black students across all five dimensions?

7. Cultural Fit

Category	School 1	School 2	School 3
Black student orgs			
Black faculty presence			
Cultural centers			
Campus climate			

Academic Fit

Category	School 1	School 2	School 3
Black graduation rates			
Tutoring and advising			
Faculty mentorship			
Internship pathways			

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Social Fit

Category	School 1	School 2	School 3
Safety practices			
Residence hall diversity			
Mental health support			
Community spaces			

Financial Fit

Category	School 1	School 2	School 3
No PLUS loans			
No private loans			
Manageable four-year cost			

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Structural Fit

Category	School 1	School 2	School 3
Bias response system			
Diversity office authority			
Representation in leadership			
Transparent policies			



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