

Smart College Visit

My College Decision: Journey to Endicott College

by Erin Westerman | [@ErinSCV](#) | [Smart College Visit Intern](#)



As you enter junior year of high school, you might find that every long lost family member, parents of friends, and basically anyone that you meet will begin to ask you where you've decided to go to college, what you want to study, and what you hope to do for the rest of your life. My answer to all of the above used to be "I have absolutely no idea" and after a while I dreaded the questions. . In fact, I was so overwhelmed by the thought of college that I had no idea where to start.

Then, halfway through the summer that led up to my junior year in high school, I realized that my college decisions would be coming up much sooner than I was prepared for so I needed to get myself into gear.

For starters, I decided that, as tempting, warm and sunny as Florida is, I wanted to stay in New England so I could be far enough away that I wouldn't have to take a plane to come home every once in a while . That was a good enough starting point so I bought the latest edition of the "Princeton Review's Top Colleges and Universities," used my high school's college search database to find matches around the area, and checked out each college's website.



To organize myself, I had a notebook in which I wrote where each college was, the programs they had that interested me, and other pros and cons of the school. When I toured each school online, I wrote pages of notes about things I loved and those I wasn't a big fan of. There were other criteria that I found important, such as if there were good study abroad and internship programs. Once I had done all the boring research, I decided that I needed to take more initiative so I started calling up the schools that were within an hour's driving distance to set up tours, which I proceeded to drive myself to.

I figured that if I really loved a school I would bring my parents back to see it. I ended up applying to six schools that seemed right for me. This process, though tedious and overwhelming at times, was what gave me the push I needed. It makes me proud, looking back, that I did everything myself and that I essentially made the decision all on my own.

The first time I stepped on Endicott's campus, I fell in love; that's how it is sometimes. I just got that gut feeling that this was where I needed to be. The reason I toured at [Endicott College](#) in the first place was because my mom went here back in the Stone Ages when it was a two-year, all women's institution. Now it's a co-educational four-year college with its own graduate school. So, just like that "sure, Mom, I guess we'll go look at your school" turned into "I need to go here."

The college is in the cute little [town of Beverly, Massachusetts](#), which is right next to Salem and a train ride from Boston. It also helps that Endicott is on the beach and has the most beautiful campus I had ever seen. Besides looks, Endicott has a lot of things that are important to me such as a study abroad program which will allow me to travel for a whole semester or just during vacations. And since I don't know what I want to do after I graduate, the strong internship program here, which requires students to complete three internships before graduation, is perfect for me to explore various options.

Coming from a small town, I decided that a small school was right for me and Endicott fit that criteria, too. There are only about 2,500 undergraduate students and none of the classes have more than 30 students. Because I was so passionate about attending Endicott College, I came back for every [Open House and Focus Day](#) that I could as well as for an interview, which I would strongly recommend to anyone who has their sights set on a specific school. I'm confident that I have made the right choice for me because I feel so comfortable here. Though it undoubtedly was not an easy process, knowing that I'm happy where I am made all that stress well worth it.