



"creating academic and athletic success"

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### ***Things to Consider When Determining Where to Play Collegiate Golf***

*Learn about several key ingredients in a successful college golf program search.*

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There are several key aspects to finding the “best fit” college or university that meets the prospective student athlete’s academic and athletic goals. Things to consider may include where the institution is located, how much scholarship money (both academic *and* athletic) is available, and what your end goals are for playing collegiate golf. Are you wanting to compete professionally after college? Or, is the college golf experience just that: an athletic experience to enjoy within the post-secondary academic environment. When it comes to golf, the key thing to remember is to go to a school where you can play regardless of the level. Would you rather be the number eight player at a large Division 1 school and never get to play in a tournament or the number three player at a Division 2 school and play in every tournament? Think about it and read through the tips below!

- Choose a school at which you feel comfortable.
  - o Do you like the campus?
  - o Is the location good?
  - o Do they offer a major in the subject area of your interest?
  - o Do you prefer a big school or a small school?
  - o Do you want to live on campus or off campus?
  
- Even though golf is played as a team sport in college, it really is an individual competition. How far golf takes you will not be dictated by where you go to school, but determined by your talent, work ethic, and mental approach. The key thing to remember as far as golf is concerned is to find a place where you can actually play and not just be on a team.
  
- Coaches are looking for juniors who know how to play the game. At the end of the day, score is what matters. Regardless of how good your golf swing looks, coaches are interested in watching you play to see whether or not you know how to score. While you are competing, they will evaluate your course management skills, your ability to shape and play different types of shots, the soundness of your short game, and how good your attitude remains—especially in tough situations. Spend time on the golf course learning to play different types of shots and refining your short game technique.

- Choose a school where you like and respect the golf coach as you will spend a lot of time with this person over the next four years.
- Investigate the affordability of the school for your family. You can't go to a school if you can't afford it, so even though a school may be attractive to you, if it is not financially possible for you to attend school there, it's best to mark them off of your list.
- Very few players receive full golf scholarships at any level of college golf. Some receive partial scholarships and some receive no golf money at all. College coaches are always searching for players who can qualify for academic scholarship money. It greatly reduces the strain on their budgets and allows them more flexibility in selecting players.
- Coaches are looking for good athletes who have fundamentally sound swings. Coaches expect you to work regularly with a qualified golf instructor and to design and implement a fitness program that will enhance your swing. Remember that once you start college, you will be required to actively participate in a workout program with your coach and team at least three days per week. Why not start today?

Now that you have reviewed the information start thinking about the ingredients involved in creating a successful college golf program search!

Good luck!

*Dr. Fleming*

*Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal goals.*

*For more information please visit [playcollegiategolf.com](http://playcollegiategolf.com)*

### Attend a Career Fair in Your First Year at College

## College Survival Tip



When you get on campus, go directly to the Career Center and see what options are available for first year students. Internships, résumé workshops, and career fairs are all valuable experiences and these learning opportunities should be taken advantage of early on in the scholastic career. Many first year students don't attend a Career Fair and most don't see the value in it, unfortunately. I always built this into my First Year Experience classes as an integral component to success for *all* four years. My thinking was that getting first year students to experience the Career Fair without the added pressure of actually getting a job would be beneficial to when it actually counted! Also, many companies attending these fairs have internships and summer job opportunities. Find out when your school Career Fair is (Tip: They usually will have one each semester!) and go to it without the pressure to perform! College is all about experiential learning and this is just one more chance!