

Reach, Target, and Safety Worksheet

Safety (Likely Admission)

Your student's GPA and scores are comfortably above the school's middle 50% for admitted students.

Target (Realistic Match)

Your student's numbers fall within the school's middle 50% range.

Reach (Possible, Not Likely)

Your student's numbers are below the middle 50%, or the school admits so few students that no one can count on it.

School	Middle 50% GPA range	Middle 50% SAT/ACT range	Acceptance rate	My student's standing (above / within / below)	Net price estimate	Would they attend?	Category (R / T / S)

The affordability check: A school is not a true safety or target if your family can't afford it. Run each school's Net Price Calculator — if the net cost is far beyond budget, it belongs in a different category regardless of admissions odds.

The “would they go” check: Every school, especially safeties, must pass one test: would your student actually attend if it was their only acceptance? If no, it doesn't belong on the list.

A balanced list of 10: Roughly 2–3 safeties, 4–5 targets, and 2–3 reaches. Acceptance rate alone is misleading — compare your student's numbers to the admitted-student profile.

Skip the copy-paste. CollegeHound tracks every school's data, deadlines, and category in one free shared family workspace — and Scout, our AI guide, is the paid upgrade that compares your student's profile to each school for you. Start free at collegehound.com/get-started