

Name: Ashlyn

Year: Sophomore, Class of 2020

How Many Official Visits Did You Take?

- 3

What were the most important features of the college you chose, such as division, conference, coaches, teammates, majors, minors, etc.?

- I first looked at schools which a kinesiology major (or exercise science). After that is was mostly on how easy it was to talk to the coaches. I also wanted a close team with little drama. I didn't care much about division or conference. I did talk to a D3 school, not super seriously though.

What were some important things you learned from your visits?

- Mostly the personalities of the girls on the team. My main focus was to find a stable team with little drama. Meeting the coaches was also a big part. It's important to remember that the coaches are trying to get you to come to their schools so they may act differently when recruiting you versus coaching you. Because of this its sometimes a good idea to listen to the rumors about coaches, they tend not to be wrong when you've heard the same thing from different people.

How Important Was Academic Major In Your Choice Of School?

- Kinesiology, it was my top priority because I knew I wanted to be a physical therapist. Bigger state schools tend to have more majors that are more established which can be helpful for kids who don't know what they want to major in. Some schools it's important to know how hard it is to get into certain majors. For example, at umass the business school is very competitive, however it is easier to get into as an incoming freshman. Therefore even if you are unsure if you want to major in business but think you may, it is better to apply directly into the business school and then switch majors if you change your mind.

Did the Size of the School Factor Into Your Decision?

- I was looking for a bigger school. However, I learned that while I liked big, some schools were too big.

When Did You Begin Researching College Swim Programs?

- Junior year

What Advice Would You Give To Rising Seniors With Regard To Recruiting?

- Start earlier than I did, at least sophomore year start looking into schools. Ask as may questions as possible on recruiting trips. Also ask older teammates who have already gone through the process specific questions. They may have heard things about schools that you are interested in that can be good or bad.