

Name: Ryan
Year: Freshman, 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 wanted to be at a Division 1 Program at a team with potential to score well and be competitive in their conference, but that also had fun but worked hard when it came to swimming. I wanted to have a great connection with the coach and trust their process in making their swimmers faster. The school also had to have a good respect to academics or an honors program, and have an athletic scholarship or promise of one in the future.

What were some important things you learned from your visits?

- What the team's personality was like and what they did for fun, and how the campus and surrounding area was. I learned about how a practice is run (usually they let you watch Saturday morning practice). Also taste the food, and get an idea of what the study scene is like.

How important was academic major in your choice of school?

- My major is Finance and this was not too important to me when picking a school because I had no idea what I wanted to major in heading into freshman year. Turns out the business school at the school I chose is awesome and Finance is the right choice for me.

Did the size of the school factor into your decision?

- Yes, I wanted a large school with a big campus.

When did you begin researching college swim programs?

- Junior year

What advice would you give to rising seniors with regard to recruiting?

- If you have not already began talking to college coaches, do so immediately. Create a list of potential schools based on a few factors that you desire in a potential college/university. Do not be afraid to talk on the phone with coaches and have a list of prepared questions to ask when you do. Additionally, do not be afraid to ask for recruiting trips as most coaches and programs would love to show you their school. Also, the recruiting trips are the best way to get a feel for the school and can be very fun. Do not feel pressure to commit in the fall if you are a middle-tier swimmer. A lot of schools save a few spots on their rosters for later Spring commitments and even have Spring recruiting trips available. Clean up your social media profiles and have your current club coach put in a good word for you at the schools you are particularly interested in. Do not feel discouraged if you do not receive a response from specific schools. There are plenty of other options that will recruit you if you wish to swim in college. However, do not expect a scholarship right off the bat. There are plenty of opportunities to earn yourself an athletic scholarship after your freshman year if you work hard enough.