



VERITAS FRAMEWORK

How Should You Evaluate a College?

A practical checklist for checking what a specific college actually provides before making a decision.

College / University		Programme	
Location		Date Checked	

How to use this checklist: Tick an item only when you can verify it. Record the source and the specific fact you found. Prefer current, programme-specific evidence over general claims.

01 Academic Environment

What will the academic experience actually be like?

Check	What can I verify?
☐	Current programme structure and syllabus are available.
☐	Faculty teaching the programme can be identified from current institutional information.
☐	Academic advising or student support arrangements are clearly described.
☐	Class, assessment or teaching arrangements are explained in official programme information.
☐	Relevant academic facilities are available to students on the programme.

Evidence to record

Record the exact source: current programme page, handbook, syllabus, faculty page or written response from the college. Note the date checked.

02 Laboratory & Practical Facilities

Will students actually get the practical exposure this programme requires?

Check	What can I verify?
■	The programme lists practical or laboratory components.
■	The college identifies the laboratories or facilities used by students.
■	Practical sessions are part of the stated programme structure, not only mentioned as a general facility.
■	Fieldwork, clinical, project or other practical requirements are specified where relevant.
■	Access to the relevant facilities is available to undergraduate students.

Evidence to record
Record the facility name, relevant practical component, hours/semester details if available, and source. A campus visit can be used to verify physical facilities.

03 Research & Project Opportunities

Can students gain experience beyond routine coursework?

Check	What can I verify?
■	A project, dissertation or equivalent applied component is included where relevant.
■	Undergraduate students can participate in faculty-led research or structured projects where available.
■	Relevant research facilities or groups are identifiable.
■	Internship or external project arrangements are clearly described where offered.
■	Examples of student research/projects are available from reliable institutional sources.

Evidence to record
Record a specific project requirement, research group, facility, internship structure or example. Do not rely only on phrases such as 'research-oriented'.

04 Industry & Professional Exposure

What evidence is there of exposure to professional work?

Check	What can I verify?
■	Internship requirements or opportunities are clearly described.
■	Industry visits, practitioner sessions or professional projects are documented where offered.
■	External partnerships relevant to the programme can be identified.

Check	What can I verify?
■	Placement or career services explain what support is actually provided.
■	Claims about employers or industry exposure can be verified from current institutional information.

Evidence to record
Record the internship structure, named activity, partnership, career service or other verifiable evidence. Distinguish an opportunity being available from a guaranteed outcome.

05 Campus & Student Environment

Can I verify that the day-to-day environment is practical for me?

Check	What can I verify?
■	The campus location and daily travel requirements are manageable.
■	Accommodation options and costs are clear if accommodation is needed.
■	Relevant student facilities are available and accessible.
■	Student clubs, activities or academic communities relevant to the student can be identified.
■	Campus rules, schedules or other conditions that affect daily student life are understood.

Evidence to record
Use a campus visit, official campus information, accommodation information and direct enquiries. Record facts rather than general impressions.

06 Progression & Career Support

What support and options are available after graduation?

Check	What can I verify?
■	Relevant postgraduate pathways are identified.
■	Career or placement services are clearly described.
■	Internship or employment support is explained rather than implied.
■	Alumni or progression information is available where the college publishes it.
■	Any placement or career claims are supported by current, programme-relevant evidence.

Evidence to record

Record the actual service, progression information or published outcome. Note the year and programme where data is provided. Do not treat broad placement claims as guaranteed personal outcomes.

07 Practical Considerations

Can I realistically manage the programme and college?

Check	What can I verify?
■	Current tuition and other compulsory academic fees are known.
■	Accommodation and living costs are understood if applicable.
■	Travel time, transport and location are manageable.
■	Admission eligibility and selection requirements have been verified.
■	Programme duration, attendance, internship and other important conditions are understood.

Evidence to record

Record current fees, admission rules, travel information, accommodation costs and programme conditions. Use official sources wherever possible.

Evidence Check

Use evidence that an applicant can reasonably obtain and check before deciding.

Source	What did I verify?	Date
Official college / university website		
Current programme / syllabus / handbook		
Admissions or programme office		
Campus visit / facility observation		
Current student experience		
Other reliable source		

Final College Check

Before deciding, can I answer these three questions?

- ☐ Does this college provide the academic and practical environment required by the programme?
- ☐ Have I found specific evidence that supports the opportunities I consider important?
- ☐ Have I verified important claims using current, reliable information rather than reputation alone?

Overall assessment
Verified strengths
Concerns / gaps

Information still to verify
Next action

LOOK BEYOND REPUTATION. Check what the specific college actually provides, and record the evidence before deciding.

Veritas Pathways

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