

CAMPUS VISITS

One of the most important parts of your college research is the campus visit. Visiting the colleges will give you a firsthand impression of the students, faculty, staff, facilities, and programs. This process does take time and money, but it will allow you and your family to gauge college “fit”.

PLANNING A VISIT

Call to schedule the visit at least two weeks ahead of time. Admissions Offices are open year round, but visiting when classes are in session is best. In the summer you can get a tour and learn about admissions and financial aid but may miss out on the “feel” of the campus with the normal student load.

Get directions and arrive on time. Make a good first impression. Have the phone number for the office available so that you can call if you experience difficulties en route. If you need to cancel or reschedule, call in advance.

Be flexible. If there is something you specifically want to see on campus, ask ahead of time. If you want to talk to a coach, ask ahead of time. If you want to sit in on a class, ask ahead of time. If you want an overnight visit, ask ahead of time.

Allow enough time. A good visit takes between two and four hours. Don’t try to visit more than two schools in one day.

Many colleges have special visitation days throughout the year. It is always best to reserve your spot for those opportunities. Check the college website for more information on those days.

DURING THE VISIT

Take notes and ask questions. Use the checklist on the back to assist you. Talk to everyone you meet from students to professors to dining hall workers.

Keep your eyes open. Pick up a copy of the school newspaper, check out bulletin boards, and check out the menus in the cafeteria.

Don’t discount a school because of bad weather or other uncontrollable circumstances.

AFTER THE VISIT

Send a thank you. Write a thank you or send an email to those you spoke with on campus, especially admissions officers, financial aid officers, professors, or coaches.

Remain in contact. Some schools keep a record of contacts and may use that as a measurement of your interest in the school. If you are interested, remain in contact.

Debrief. Talk to parents, friends, relatives and particularly your school counselor to best evaluate your impressions after college visits.

CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

To help you find the right college, fill out one of these forms each time you visit a school.

COLLEGE NAME

CITY

STATE

SIZE

TUITION

ROOM & BOARD

FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS

ADMISSIONS CONTACT

NAME

EMAIL

PHONE

TO-DO CHECKLIST

___ Talk to professors

___ Talk to students

___ Visit the library

___ Visit student housing

___ Talk to admissions

___ Read bulletin boards

___ Sit in on a class

___ Check out recreational facilities

___ Eat at a cafeteria

___ Check out student activities

___ Tour campus

___ Tour the city around campus

___ Read school paper

___ Eat at an off-campus hang-out

___ Check out computer
Labs

___ Picture yourself living there

RATE IT

On a scale of 1-5, five being the best, rate the following:

People ___

Social life ___

Classrooms ___

Dorms ___

Town ___

Campus ___

Food ___

ASK A STUDENT

What is the best part about this college?

What is the worst part?

What is a typical day like?

What do students do on the weekends?

THE BEST PART ABOUT MY VISIT

THE WORST PART ABOUT MY VISIT

How are classes structured?

Why did you choose this college?