

COLLEGE FAIR TIP SHEET

BEFORE THE FAIR

- Ask yourself the following questions:
 - Do I want to attend an extra-large, large, medium or small school?
 - Do I know what I plan to study?
 - Do I want to attend an urban, suburban or rural school?
 - Do I want to attend a 2 year, 4 year, single sex, or religiously affiliated school?
 - Do I want to participate in athletics, clubs, fraternities or sororities, or special programs such as study abroad or cooperative education?
- Research colleges attending the fair to determine if they meet your search criteria.
- Prepare a list of questions to ask – try to select questions that are not easily answered by looking at the college literature.
 - Are there different admissions requirements for specific colleges or programs?
 - Does your college award credit for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate?
 - What are the housing options and requirements? Rules for cars?
 - Does your college offer study abroad options?
 - Does your college provide access to internship options?
 - What percentage of your first-year students return the following year?
 - What percentage of graduates are employed within one year?
 - Will my family's ability to pay for college be a factor in the admissions process?
 - Can credits be earned online or transferred from other colleges?
 - How safe is your campus?
 - Which association has given your college accreditation?
 - How do I arrange a campus visit?

AT THE FAIR

- Visit schools which match or are the closest match to your search criteria.
- Ask the same questions you have developed to each college representative you visit.
- Make sure to fill out an inquiry card to let the college know you were in attendance. This will put you on their mailing list.
- Make notes about information which you found most interesting/helpful.
- Be adventurous. Don't just talk to the "well known" schools.
- Attend an information session that is offered to gather information about the college search process, financial aid, or whatever topics are available. PNC's college fair includes a financial aid presentation.

AFTER THE FAIR

- Review information (catalogs and view books) to gather more information and help narrow down your choices.
- Send a thank note/email to the college representative as a way to reinforce your interest in the school.