

Campus Visit Guidelines

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Try to attend a full school day and stay overnight at each college whenever feasible.

Limit each trip to no more than two colleges in a day, as they will start to blur into each other.

Ascertain that the school is in fact in session on the day you will visit.

Schedule your official visit through the admissions office.

- Ask for a campus tour and an info session.
- Ask to meet your admissions rep/schedule an interview (if appropriate).
- Note day, hour, name of interviewer, location. Book well in advance.
- Arrange to stay overnight if it is available.
- If you have a special interest, ask if a host with the same is available.
- Sophomores and juniors are ideal hosts, if you have a choice.
- Stay in the dorm; eat in the dining hall.
- Attend classes that interest you. Admissions staff can assist.
- Arrange to speak to faculty or coaches in areas of interest.
- Attend an event that interests you.

Admission staff will often arrange for you to be picked up from the airport; just ask.

Take maps, chart your course, and ask for estimated driving times.

You **MUST** arrive on the campus early. It can be difficult to find parking and to locate your meeting point. An hour earlier than necessary is not a bad thing. Walk around and see the sights. Relax and take notes.

Keep college visits and school demands in balance.

- Notify teachers of absences and clear them through your counselor.
- Plan to make up all missed work.

Pack appropriate clothes for weather and interview. Be prepared. Give the school a chance even if the weather is bad!

Pick up: course catalogue, school newspaper, campus map, brochures, applications

Talk to students

Keep in mind that the weather can sway your opinion

Keep in mind that no single person represents an entire school—this includes your tour guide

Investigate

- Students
 - Does everyone look the same?
 - Do they look like you?
 - Is there enough diversity?
 - Do they seem bright? Apathetic? Relaxed? Involved?
 - How would you fit in academically?
 - What's the stand on drinking, drugs and dating?
 - What motivates the students?
- Social life and campus activities
 - Is a variety of activities available?
 - What clubs are advertising meetings?
 - What do students do in their free time?

- What do students do for fun?
- What happens on the weekends?
- Who throws campus parties? Is there pressure to drink?
- Has the administration recently cracked down on anything?
- Campus facilities
 - Are there special interest dorms?
 - How long do students typically stay in the dorms?
 - Are there options for dining?
 - Is there a fitness center?
 - Is there career counseling on campus? Interviews?
 - How is campus security?
 - How is campus technology?
 - How is the campus bookstore?
- Community off-campus
 - Is it busy enough for you?
 - Does it offer the conveniences you are accustomed to?
 - Are there places to shop and eat? Go for entertainment?
 - Do community members have a good relationship with the college?
- Academic courses and faculty
 - What kinds of reading assignments are there? How many?
 - How many hours per day do students spend on homework?
 - Is emphasis on course content or grades?
 - What is class size like?
 - How is participation in classes?
 - How accessible are professors?
 - When you graduate, how many professors will know your first name?

Go to a library, the commons or a café and listen to people. What do students talk about?

Look at bulletin boards and posters. Does anything interest you?

Observe a typical freshman class and an upper-level course.

Questions to ask students

- Has the college lived up to your expectations?
- Has anything been a major disappointment?
- Was anything surprising to you?
- What is distinctive about the college? Strengths? Weaknesses?
- Are there any particular tensions on campus?
- Is there anything special I should see before I leave?
- If you were to choose again, would you choose this school?
- Have you been happy here?
- What would you change if given the chance?
- What is the housing system?
- Is it quiet enough to study in the dorms?
- Which dorms are best?
- Are any dorms special?
- How difficult is it to make the _____ team?
- How could I get involved with the _____ (activity)?
- How do I qualify for intramural sports? Club sports?
- What were some issues that concerned students last year?
- What classes are taught by professors/TA's?
- How easy is it for freshmen/sophomores to get the classes they want?
- How much time do you spend studying?
- Is the social scene college-sponsored, student initiated, or Greek oriented?
- Where are laundry facilities? Health clinic? Libraries?
- Is _____(special program) available?