



How to Make the Most of a Campus Visit



Before your visit

- ✓ Check the Admissions website to find out when campus tours and information sessions are held and whether you need an appointment.
- ✓ Make a list of questions to ask a college representative or tour guide.
Sample questions include:
 - What is the average class size?
 - What type of extra-curricular activities and sports are offered?
 - Are professors often available outside of class?
 - What additional academic services are offered?
 - Is housing guaranteed?
 - How are roommates selected?
 - What financial aid is available?
- ✓ Be sure to look up a map of campus and find out where to set your GPS for parking.
- ✓ Check out the college's social media presence: Youtube, Instagram, etc...and yes, TikTok can also be a great way to hear from current students about their college experience.

While on campus

- ◆ Take a campus tour.
- ◆ Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- ◆ Take notes of the answers to your questions and your thoughts about the college.
- ◆ Take pictures! The pictures may jog your memory later.
- ◆ Have an interview with admissions officer.
- ◆ Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- ◆ Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- ◆ Talk to a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you.
- ◆ Talk to coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- ◆ Spend the night in a Residence Hall (Arrange this ahead of time)
- ◆ Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- ◆ Eat meals in the dining hall. Ask at the Admissions Office-often you can eat for free.
- ◆ Wander around the campus by yourself.
- ◆ Read for a little while in the library and see what it's like.
- ◆ Ask a student what they love about the college.
- ◆ Ask a student what they hate about the college.
- ◆ Browse in the college bookstore.
- ◆ Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- ◆ Ask a student what they do on weekends.

How to Make the Most of a College Fair



College fairs are a good way to get a lot of information in a short amount of time. They give you the chance to talk to many admission officers and find out what is offered at their campuses. You can also attend information sessions on general topics, such as financial aid, athletics, etc. They can also be overwhelming. Anywhere from 10 to 200 or more colleges could be represented. Where should you start? **Having a plan for before, during, and after you go is advised.**

Before the Fair

- ✓ Write down college characteristics that are important to you, i.e. small, large, rural, urban
- ✓ Review web sites and catalogs of colleges on your list and jot down questions that aren't answered in the materials.
- ✓ Create questions about your own interests, such as activities you'd like to pursue and course requirements for the majors in which you're interested.
- ✓ Make a list of the colleges you wish to visit at the fair.

What to Bring to the Fair

- ✎ A pen & small notebook (taking notes on your phone might make you look distracted)
- ✎ Your list of colleges you would like to visit and questions you'd like to ask
- ✎ A bag or backpack to hold college information.

During the Fair

- ◆ Focus your visit so you can get in-depth knowledge about the colleges that really interest you.
- ◆ If the fair has information sessions with experts, block out time to attend those that interest you.
- ◆ After you visit a college's booth take time to write down what you've learned.
- ◆ Leave some time at the end to browse through some of the booths you didn't get to- you could stumble on a great college you've never considered.

After the Fair

- DO look through the materials, and your notes, within the week.
- DON'T put the college materials in the back of your closet. Keep them on hand for when you're ready to review them.
- DO research colleges that interest you. Explore web sites, request more information from admissions offices, and arrange a visit.