

# Campus Visit Guidelines

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## Before you visit

- Contact the admissions office through the college's website, email, or phone number to make a reservation.

Most Campus visits include:

- Information sessions with an admissions representative and a campus tour.
- Tours are often led by current students and give you a chance to ask questions.

At many colleges you can arrange to do the following also:

- Attend a class,
- Meet with a professor,
- Meet with an admissions officer,
- Meet with a financial aid officer,
- Attend a club meeting or a sports practice session,
- Eat in the dining hall,
- Spend a night in a dorm room.

Do your research on the college and prioritize what you want to see. Some less obvious sources besides the college website are:

- Listen to the college radio station,
- Read the student newspaper,
- Read student publications and school blogs.

You may be trying to visit multiple campuses in one trip. If you do, bring a chart on which to take notes. It will be helpful to look at later when you are making decisions.

## When to visit

- If possible, visit the colleges before your applications are due—this will save you money in application fees.
- Visit when the college is in session. You will get a more accurate feel for the school. Think of it this way—If you visited WHS at 5:00 p.m. would it be different than visiting during 4th hour?
- Be sure to plan ahead and talk to the admissions office to maximize your visit!

## Questions to Ask

### Academics

- What is the average class size? May I see a classroom or visit a class? If you are visiting a science classroom and see a lot of research/lab materials, ask questions such as, "Do underclassman get to use these materials or do graduate students only have access to these resources?"
- How are classes structured? Are they lecture, discussion/small group, or a combination?
- Are admission standards higher for certain majors? *For some majors, you must apply after your freshman year and not everyone is guaranteed acceptance!* Find out the requirements and percentage of students accepted to these programs!
- What percentage of the faculty is full-time? *If faculty are not full-time, it can be harder to get access to them for help.*
- What percentage of undergraduate courses are taught by professors versus graduate assistants/Teaching Assistants (TAs).
- What type of academic supports do you offer?
- Do you offer free tutoring? Is there a writing lab? Is there a study skills lab?
- Do you have a freshman year experience? Many schools have these programs to help with the transition both academically and socially. It may include how they approach housing and/or common classes.

## Financial

- What is the typical breakdown of loans versus grants in your aid packages?
- What is the job placement rate in your major of study?
- What is the acceptance rate to graduate schools in your major of study?
- What is the four-year, five-year, and six-year graduation rate? Taking longer than four years to complete your degree increases your tuition and housing costs! Remember, you need to budget for this!

## Life on Campus

- Do you require students to live on campus?
- How are residence halls grouped:
  - By class? Some schools try to keep students in the same class (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior) together while other schools do not.
  - By floor? Some schools group students by class on the same floor while others have created small learning communities based on majors.
  - Co-ed? Some schools try to keep men and women in separate by building, wings or floors.
- Do you require students to live on campus?
- How many students live on campus after freshman year?
- What options for housing are available to students after freshman year? Are there off/on campus complexes or are students on their own to find housing?
  - How many students typically stay on campus each weekend—especially freshman year? If you are attending a campus away from home and the majority of the students leave campus on the weekend, it can be pretty lonely.
- Ask your student tour guide about his/her experience.
  - What do you like best about your school? What do you like least about your school?
  - If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?
  - Why did you pick this school? What other schools were you considering?
  - What does a successful student look like at this school?
  - What did you do last weekend? This will give you a better answer than asking what students do on the weekend.
- Are all students required to do a capstone experience? If yes, how are advisors/mentors assigned?
- How many students participate in a study abroad program? What study abroad programs are available?
- What types of internships are available?
- What type of help is available to assist with internship opportunities?
- What type of research opportunities are available to undergraduates—be specific about being an undergraduate! Some opportunities are only for graduate students even though their research programs are highlighted.

## Health and Safety

- What services are offered at your health center? Are there mental health services on campus?
- Is there shuttle service available? How late and where do they run?
- How many incidences of crime were reported last year?
- Does security patrol campus? How many security staff are there? How often do they patrol?

## Life after college

- What career services are available? How long after graduation are career services available?
- What is the job placement rate for students in your major/field of study?
- What is the acceptance rate for graduate study in your major/field of study?
- Ask about their Alumni.
  - What is the alumni level of support? (It is a good indicator of how much they enjoyed their experience and it will be an indicator of potential financial support for the school and potential networking resources for future employment).

# College Exploration Worksheet

<b>COLLEGE NAME</b>			
<b>Size</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment</li> <li>• Physical size of campus</li> </ul>			
<b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Type of school (2yr., 4yr. Technical)</li> <li>• School setting (urban, rural)</li> <li>• Location and size of nearest city</li> <li>• Co-ed, male, female</li> <li>• Religious affiliation</li> </ul>			
<b>Admission Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadline</li> <li>• Tests required</li> <li>• Avg. test scores, GPA,</li> <li>• Notification</li> </ul>			
<b>Academics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your major offered</li> <li>• Special requirements</li> <li>• Prof. /T.A.-Grad. Asst.</li> <li>• Typical class size</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>			
<b>Expenses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition, room &amp; board</li> <li>• Books, travel, etc.</li> <li>• Application fee, deposits</li> <li>• Estimated total budget</li> </ul>			
<b>Financial Aid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % receiving aid</li> <li>• Scholarships</li> <li>• Required forms</li> <li>• Deadline</li> </ul>			
<b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization</li> <li>• Requirements</li> <li>• Options for freshman versus upper classman</li> <li>• Food plan</li> </ul>			
<b>Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Academic</li> <li>• Recreational</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations</li> <li>• Study Abroad</li> <li>• Internships</li> <li>• Greek Life</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>			
<b>Campus Visits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contacts</li> <li>• When</li> <li>• Other opportunity: overnight, visit a class, etc.</li> </ul>			