

## *College Visits*

### **How to make them count**

*College visits* can play an important role in making your final decision, but make sure to take full advantage of the opportunity.

*Before* you plan to visit a college, you need to sit down and think about what you want out of college.

#### *Points to consider include :*

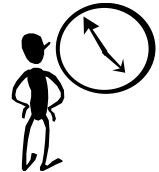
- ✓ Your educational goals
- ✓ Desired living style
- ✓ Career goals
- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Location and anything else that may be important to you.



Discuss your goals with your parents, who can provide insight that you may not have considered. Understanding each other's expectations will help all of you during the college search process.

Research early to narrow your choices.

### **The time you visit a college affects what you can learn about it.**



#### *Try to time your visit when school is in session.*

Plan your visit beforehand so you can go on a **campus tour**, and arrange an **interview** before your trip. (*Talking with a school representative offers you the opportunity to ask questions*).

Keep your eyes and ears open for anything that can tell you more about the school. **Read bulletin boards and find a student newspaper.**

*When visiting a college*, the most important thing you can do is *talk to people*: students, professors, nearly anyone you meet. They will help you understand what life is really like, since glossy brochures tend to overlook the negative.



## *Ask questions.*

- ❖ What is dorm life like – are there wild parties every night or do students bury their heads in their textbooks?
- ❖ Is the food edible, or do people know the pizza guy by name?
- ❖ How are classes conducted – do professors lead engaging discussions and lectures, or do graduate students teach classes?
- ❖ How easily can one add and drop classes or change majors?
- ❖ Do students study cooperatively or competitively?
- ❖ How diverse (and in what ways) is the student and faculty population?
- ❖ Is there an honor code?
- ❖ Are there significant safety issues that you need to understand?
- ❖ What do people do on the weekends?
- ❖ How important are fraternities and sororities?
- ❖ How much power do the students have?
- ❖ *There is no end to the questions one can ask.*



**Students are your best source of information**, since they tend to give the real story and are willing to reveal the flip side to the promotional materials. Keep in mind personal biases and talk to as many people as possible.

## **Check out the campus facilities.**

If you plan to pursue a degree in natural sciences or engineering, you should investigate the quality of the laboratories.

For those who will live on campus, visiting the different dorms can be a crash course in housing quality and student living styles, especially if the buildings vary. Some buildings may offer better facilities, and some may have quiet hours, a strict antisubstance policy or other restrictions.

Ask students to offer their opinion of the dorms.

*Student athletes should investigate field and gym quality and accessibility.*

*After visiting a college*, especially if visiting several during a single trip, make sure to write down your impressions. Remember what you liked and what made you uncomfortable and include experiences that will jog your memory when you have made your final decision.



# College Knowledge

## Making sure you know what you need to know before your go

1. Where is the school located (city and state)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What type of area is the school in (urban, rural, suburban)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How large is the student body? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How large is the campus? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What help is available to students struggling with their college courses?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How safe is the campus? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Is parking a problem? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How large is the average class? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How good is the food? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Are there services available to help you find internships or jobs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12. What entrance exams are required?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. What is the admissions process?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14. What counseling resources are available to students?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15. When are admissions deadlines?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Is on-campus housing guaranteed?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. How much is tuition?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. How much does housing cost?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. What's the acceptance rate?** \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. What kinds of financial aid are available?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 21. What types of scholarships are available?**  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. What is the gender ratio? \_\_\_\_\_
23. It is private, public or church-affiliated? \_\_\_\_\_
24. When are the first and last days of class? \_\_\_\_\_
25. Where do students go to party? \_\_\_\_\_
26. Do most students live on or off campus? \_\_\_\_\_
27. Is there a Greek system? \_\_\_\_\_
28. Can students find part-time or work on campus? \_\_\_\_\_

**Space provided for additional questions, comments/observations on the back.**

