

TCHS

COLLEGE VISITS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students may have two college visits in their Junior year and two in their Senior year, with two-week prior approval of their grade level assistant principal and a letter from the college or university verifying the visit.

PREPARING FOR A COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT

Know Before You Go

It may be tempting to just yell “road trip!” and head out to campuses, but you will get more out of your visits if you plan ahead.

Research the College

It is important to know something about the college before you arrive on its campus, especially if you have an interview scheduled.

- Review the viewbooks, course catalogs, and any other materials the college sends to prospective students.
- Spend some time surfing their website.
- Talk to currently enrolled students or alumni about their college. Some college websites let you contact them online, or you can get their contact information from the admission office.

Scheduling Your Trip

Pick a time that is convenient to you, but try to go when classes are in session. That way, you can sit in on a lecture or stay in a dorm overnight. You will only get a true feel for the campus if you are there on a day when classes are in full swing.

Schedule your time on campus, too, to make sure you will have time for everything you want to do:

- Find out how often college tours run, and if you have to sign up in advance.
- Be sure to get a map of the school. You do not want to spend half your day trying to park or find the admission office.
- If an interview is suggested, make an appointment. Also, consider meeting with the financial aid officer.
- If you are curious about a club, program, or a sport, arrange to attend a practice, rehearsal, or meeting.

CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

Make the Most of Your Trip

Here are things you should not miss while visiting a college. Take a look at this list before planning campus trips to make sure that you allow enough time on each campus to get a sense of what the school life of its students is really like:

- Take a campus tour.
- Have an interview with admissions officer.
- Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- 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.
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- Spend the night in a dorm.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Try to find other student publications – department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Ask a student why he/she chose this college.
- Wander around the campus by yourself.
- Read for a little while in the library and see what it is like.
- Search for your favorite book in the library.
- Ask a student what he/she hates about the college.
- Ask a student what he/she loves about the college.
- Browse in the college bookstore.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus

Pack a Camera and Notebook

Was it X College or Y University that had that excellent exercise equipment in the gym? Where did I talk to that cool psychology professor? You think you will remember everything, but you will be surprised how colleges start to merge after you have seen a few.

What is Important to You

Make a list of what college characteristics are most important to you, so you know what to evaluate. Do you feel overwhelmed in a large lecture hall? Check out the class size. Do you have your heart set on joining a sorority or fraternity? See what the Greek system is like on campus. Is there a particular major that you want to pursue? Talk to current students or professors in that department.