

COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT PLANNER



Visiting colleges is a fun and exciting time. Try to schedule your visits while the school is in session. Many colleges have scheduled “preview” events, but usually a tour can be scheduled throughout the year. Use the tips below to get the most out of your college visit.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF A COLLEGE VISIT

EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN

Take the official campus tour, but allow time to walk around on your own. The trained tour guides will show you a school's selling points, but visiting a dorm and the student center, bookstore, and gym can give a more complete picture.

TALK TO LOTS OF STUDENTS

Your campus tour guide has been trained to market the school. Talk to students around the campus. These conversations can often provide you with information about college life that isn't part of the admissions script.

EAT IN THE DINING HALL

You can get a good feel for student life by eating in the dining hall. Observe the activity around you. Do the students seem happy? Stressed? Sullen? Also, is the food good? Are there adequate healthy options?

VISIT A CLASS IN YOUR MAJOR

If you know what you want to study, try to arrange a class visit. You'll get to observe other students in your field and see how engaged they are in classroom discussion.

SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE WITH A PROFESSOR IF POSSIBLE

If you've decided on a possible major, arrange a conference with a professor in that field. You can also ask about your major's graduation requirements (degree plan), undergraduate research opportunities, and class sizes.

READ THE BULLETIN BOARDS

They provide a quick and easy way to see what's happening on campus. The ads for lectures, clubs, recitals and plays can give you a good sense of the types of activities going on.

TAKE PICTURES AND NOTES

If you're comparing several schools, be sure to document your visits. The details may seem distinct at the time of the visit, but schools will start to blur together in your mind after the third or fourth tour. Record your feelings during the visit and what you liked and disliked about the campus.

ATTEND A SPORTING EVENT OR PERFORMANCE

Whether you visit a football game or attend a play, attending campus events is an excellent way to get a feel for a campus, its students, its traditions, and its energy.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Colleges enjoy “feeling the love” and being promoted on social media. If you are enjoying your visit, post about it on Twitter and tag the admissions office and include an appropriate hashtag. (Plus, many colleges track interest and consider it - at least in some measure - in the acceptance process!)

ALLOW YOURSELF TIME TO PROCESS

It often takes some time to really process your impressions after a visit. Give yourself a couple of hours or days after before you come to any decisions...and encourage mom and dad to let you take the lead in this decision. Let them know you value their input, but ultimately you will be the one attending. You need to be the one mentally and emotionally invested.

COLLEGE VISITS PLANNER

JANUARY

College(s)

Date(s)

FEBRUARY

College(s)

Date(s)

MARCH

College(s)

Date(s)

APRIL

College(s)

Date(s)

MAY

College(s)

Date(s)

JUNE

College(s)

Date(s)

JULY

College(s)

Date(s)