

Making a College Visit

Visiting a college campus is the best way to learn about the many qualities of the college and get a true feel for what it would be like to live and study there. The information below provides some steps in how to arrange a visit and some helpful hints to making your visit a successful one.

Contact the admissions department ahead of time to make arrangements for the visit and to schedule an interview with admissions personnel, a financial aid officer, and possibly a professor in your major area of interest.

Study the college website before your visit and develop a list of questions to ask and things to look for while you are there. Be sure to take a campus tour.

Plan a visit when classes are in session and talk with students and faculty about the college environment, academic opportunities, extracurricular opportunities, and social life.

In visiting a campus you may want to consider these aspects:

1. The academic program that interests you.
2. Instructional services and equipment.
3. Dining and housing facilities.
4. Special rules and regulations.
5. Library facilities.
6. Athletic, intramural or recreational opportunities.
7. Part time job opportunities.
8. Honors programs.
9. Faculty advisor programs.
10. Transportation issues.
11. Recognition of advanced placement credits.
12. Co-op, internship, and study abroad opportunities.
13. Career planning services.
14. Admission requirements.
15. Job placement statistics for graduates.

Key questions for students to ask college admissions representatives:

1. What are the five strongest majors at your college?
2. When must I choose a major at your college?
3. What kind of high school background are you looking for in a student?
4. What are the deadlines for application, admission, and financial aid?
5. What is your retention or graduation rate?
6. Please explain your scholarship programs.
7. Are there special visitation/orientation days of which I should be aware?

Additional informational questions to consider:

1. Does my field or major have any special admission requirements?
2. Are there special requirements for freshmen?
3. What percent of freshmen do not return as sophomores?
4. May freshmen have a car?
5. Can freshmen live off campus?
6. Are there fraternities available?
7. Is there academic and personal counseling available?
8. What type of student health services are available?
9. How available are computer labs to students?
10. What services are provided by the student union?
11. Are there any hidden fees?
12. What social and cultural opportunities are available on campus or in the community?
13. Is there a placement or career development office available to students?