

## College Visits: Checklist and Questions to Ask

### Campus Visit Checklist

“Every college visit should have at least two dimensions, formal and informal,” notes the director of college counseling at the University School of Nashville (TN). To cover both dimensions, begin your planning with the following checklist. To make sure you’re able to see everything you’d like to, don't forget to call the college ahead of time and schedule your visit!

#### Formal

- Take a campus tour
- Have an interview with admission officer
- Participate in group information session at the admission office
- Sit in on a class (or two!)
- Talk to a professor (or two) in your chosen major(s)
- Talk to a coach in your chosen sport
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center
- Spend the night in the dorm with a current student

#### Informal

- Read the student newspaper, even the ads
- Try to find other student publications—department newsletters, 'alternative' newspapers, literary reviews
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Ask a student why he/she chose this college, and what their favorite part about it is
- Wander around the campus by yourself
- Search for your favorite book in the library
- Read the bulletin boards in the student union and in the academic department you're interested in
- Ask a student what he/she dislikes about the college
- Browse in the college bookstore
- Eavesdrop on students to hear what they’re talking, or complaining about
- Surf the Net in the student computer center
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus to explore the surrounding area
- Find out if there is public transportation or if you can have your vehicle on campus
- Ask a student what he/she does on weekends
- Ask career services about upcoming job opportunities
- Look into clubs and organizations on campus that interest you
- Listen to the college's radio station
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour
- See if you can imagine yourself at this college

## Questions to Ask:

### College Graduation Track Record

- What is your four-year graduation rate?
- What is your five-year graduation rate?
- What does it take to graduate in four years at this school?
- What percentage of freshmen return for sophomore year?

### Academics

- What is the average class size of introductory classes?
- How widely used are teaching assistants on your campus?
- What is the average class size of upper-division courses?
- Will a professor act as my advisor/ be available for office hours?
- How much time do students typically spend on homework?
- How much writing and reading are expected?

### Academic Perks

- What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?
- How many students participate in undergraduate research?
- Is there a culminating senior year experience?
- Do you have an honors college?
- Do you have a learning community or other freshman experience?

### Financial Aid

- What is your average financial aid package?
- What is the typical breakdown of loans versus grants?
- What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?
- What is the average merit award?
- What percentage of students receive college grants?
- What is the average college debt that students leave with?
- What work-study opportunities are there?

### Academic Support

- How do you provide academic advice to students?
- Do you have a writing center and how do I access it?
- What kind of learning disability resources do you have?
- What type of tutoring services do you have?

### Student Life

- What kind of dorm choices are there?
- How many students live on campus?
- What percentage of the study body belongs to a sorority or fraternity?
- Do most students go home on the weekend?
- What activities are offered to students?
- What clubs do you have on campus?

### Outside Opportunities

- How many students at the college get internships?
- What percentage of students study abroad?
- What type of career services do you have?