

# GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COLLEGE VISITS

- Choosing a college is an important academic and financial decision, and campus visits are the best way to determine whether a college may be a good fit for you.
- Campus visits are often available on weekdays as well as weekends. The advantage of a weekday is you will be able to experience the campus during a regular school day, and learn more about a college major which interests you.
- Your parent/guardian should go with you on your campus visit if at all possible.
- You will apply to colleges in August/September of senior year, therefore we recommend:
  - **Juniors:** Make two campus visits in the fall or spring
  - **Seniors:** Make two campus visits in the fall if you have not visited the schools in which you plan to apply. Otherwise, save these campus visits for the spring.

## BEFORE THE VISIT


1. Go to the College Website to schedule a campus tour...
2. ... **AND make an appointment for an information session in your major area(s) of interest.** Some colleges allow you to do this online; for others you'll need to call their Admissions Office. This is a very helpful part of your campus visit, so you can compare colleges in terms of your possible major. These information sessions will fill, so be sure to schedule your campus visit and info session as soon as possible!
3. Contact the Admissions Office directly to make arrangements for the following:
  - If you have a strong interest in a major or two, request a meeting with an advisor in the school in which you are interested.
  - Have lunch where the students eat
  - Sit in on a class in your probable major
  - Talk with a financial aid counselor
  - Talk to a coach, club supervisor, or activity moderator
4. Follow all DHS guidelines for a college visit.
  - Obtain a *College Visit Form* from the counselor/attendance office prior to the visit.
5. **Be prepared!**
  - Learn as much about the college as possible before the visit. Check the website, brochures, etc.
  - Prepare a list of questions to ask during your visit.
  - Bring an unofficial copy of your transcript with you to the visit. If you do not have one, you can get one from your counselor. You may also bring an updated activities resume.
  - Bring materials to take notes during and/or after your visit.

# COLLEGE VISITATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Juniors and Seniors - 2 visits per school year

1. Make appointment with the University's Office of Admission.
2. Obtain college visitation form from the counseling/attendance office prior to the college visit.
3. University official signs this form and returns it to the student the day of the visit.
4. Parent/guardian and student must complete, sign, and submit the form to their grade level attendance office **no later than 2 days after the college visit** in order to have the excused college day approved.
5. **This college day is excused when all steps are completed in the above order. Failure to follow the above steps could result in an unexcused absence for the day.**

Please note: College visitation days are not allowed the day before/after Fall or Spring Break, before/after Prom weekend, on the day of the student's STAAR EOC testing, nor any school day in May.



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