

How Do I Schedule a Campus Visit? In most cases you can schedule your campus visit online by going to the college website and following the “Admissions” and/or “Visit” links. Many schools require you to reserve your spot in an upcoming visit program so that they can give you the attention you deserve when exploring their campus. NOTE: College visits are considered excused absences at Carmel High School, however those absences do count against you for the “Skip-a-final” program. Be sure to call the CHS attendance office to report a pre-arranged absence for college visits.

What Should I Look for on a Campus Visit? In addition to the activities previously mentioned there are several things you should consider doing while on your campus visit:

- Pick up a campus newspaper to get a sense of the campus culture and happenings.
- Take some time to explore on your own to see the places on campus that do not make the official tour.
- Explore the community surrounding the campus.
- Visit the career center to understand the resources and opportunities available to students for identifying career options, gaining experience, and making connections with future employers. Ask about alumni networks too!
- Visit the Financial Aid Office if you have questions or concerns about paying for college.
- If relevant, visit the office dedicated to working with students with disabilities to learn about the supports in place for students with documented disabilities.
- Use the “Campus Visit Score Card” on the College Board website to keep track of your experience for each visit <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BF-campus-visit-score-card.pdf>

What Questions Should I Ask on My Campus Visit? Questions you might ask while on your campus visit include:

- How safe is the campus? What security measures are in place?
- What resources exist to help students if they are struggling academically or need assistance in their courses?
- What types of financial aid / scholarships are available? How available are campus jobs?
- What types of opportunities exist to gain research experience or experience in your major field of study?
- Does the school offer career planning assistance following graduation?
- Where do students typically live? (e.g. dormitories, on-campus apartments, etc.) Does that change after freshman year?
- How do students get around? Are cars permitted?
- What types of health and counseling services are available?
- What types of opportunities exist for students to get involved on campus? How do students find out about these opportunities?
- How often do students typically go home? Where are students from? (e.g. local area, in-state, international)
- How is technology used in the classroom, libraries, eating areas and dormitories? Is there WiFi throughout the campus? Is the technology up-to-date?
- How do students interact with others who have different political / social / intellectual views and religions? Is there a prevailing culture or attitude?
- How common is study abroad? Does the school sponsor or recommend specific programs? How do the credits transfer?

If I Am Not Able to do a Campus Visit, What Can I Do to Learn More About a College?

Sometimes traveling to a college can prove difficult for many reasons, and time and money are the most common obstacles. While we believe that the best way to experience a campus is in person, there are many online resources that offer virtual tours to help students experience a campus from the comfort of home. Some of these include:

- Start at the college website. Many colleges have virtual tours of their campus that you can access from their website.
- eCampusTours.com
- campustours.com
- youuniversitytv.com

What is a Campus Visit? Campus visits provide opportunities to explore your college options in person. All colleges and universities offer campus visits programs for prospective students in an effort to provide additional information about what it might be like to attend their school, live on their campus, and learn in their classrooms. Campus visits give you a first-hand glimpse of the physical environment, the campus culture, the surrounding area, the social opportunities, and the resources available.

When Should I Go on a Campus Visit? There really is not a bad time to do campus visits, nor is it really ever too early or too late. However, the following guidelines hold true for planning campus visits:

- Campus visits conducted early in your high school career may serve a very different purpose than those taken later. Early on (9th and 10th grade), you might go on campus visits just to get exposure to different types of colleges: large vs. small, public vs. private, rural vs. urban locations, etc. This exposure can help you narrow down the criteria you have for choosing a college that will be a good fit.
- Later in your high school career (11th and 12th grade), you may visit one or more campuses because you are definitely considering applying to and attending these colleges, and the visit will allow you to gather additional information to confirm or rethink your choice.
- Planning campus visits when students will be on campus is ideal. Visiting at a time when students are moving to and from class, socializing, eating, working on campus, etc. gives you a more complete picture of what it might be like to attend that school.
- Be sure to plan for a time when you can go on an “official” campus visit complete with a tour, admissions information, and opportunity to talk with current students. Visiting unofficially is better than not visiting at all, but you will gain much more if you plan on taking advantage of official campus visit opportunities.

What Should I Do on a Campus Visit? Most campus visit programs include an admissions presentation and a campus tour at a minimum. However, many colleges offer a wide variety of other experiences that you may want to inquire about, including but not limited to:

- Touring residence hall rooms
- Eating a meal in the dining hall
- Attending one or more classes
- Meeting with advisors, faculty, and/or students in your major area of interest
- Shadowing or staying overnight with a current student
- Meeting with coaches if you are hoping to participate in athletics
- Scheduling an individual meeting or interview with an admissions representative

Why are Campus Visits Important? Campus visits are vital for helping you decide if a particular college or university is a good “fit” for you. College is a large investment of time, effort, and money; and you want to be certain that where you spend that time, effort, and money you will be able to reach your academic, personal, and career goals...and feel at home! While a lot of information about colleges can be found online, nothing can replace the experience of physically going to the campus and checking things out in-person. Campus visits give you a chance to move past the glossy brochures and expansive websites and actually see, feel, touch, hear, (and maybe even taste!) what you have been reading about. Finally, campus visits are a way for students to demonstrate interest in a college, which could help in the admissions process. Many schools track the contacts and inquiries that students make about their schools, including campus visits, which are then considered when reviewing applications and determining whether a student is a good “fit” for their campus community