

Make the Most of Your College Visit

Whenever possible, **schedule your visit in advance**: call the college's admissions office or visit the college's website to arrange your visit.

Ask when **campus tours** and **group information sessions** are held, and try to attend both.

Campus tours are typically led by a student; **group information sessions** are presentations with Q&A usually run by a member of the admissions office staff. Attending both will give you a chance to hear from both an admissions officer and a student who attends the college.

Many colleges host **open houses** once or twice a year. These are full or half-day programs with tours, faculty presentations, and class visits.

Try not to visit more than **two colleges in a day** (so that they don't blur together).

Record your impressions by taking pictures, taking notes, or even just recording your thoughts for a few minutes after you visit. It will help you keep the details that you liked and didn't like straight later on.

Twenty Questions

To ask on a college visit:

1. What are the strongest academic departments? What are the most popular majors?
2. What is the average class size? For freshmen? For upperclassmen?
3. What is the academic profile of the most recent entering class? (GPA/test scores)
4. What is your acceptance rate? Does it differ for early action/early decision/regular decision?
5. What do students do after they graduate? Graduate school? Job placement? What career services are offered?
6. What is campus life like? What kinds of social, cultural, and athletic activities are offered?
7. What student groups and clubs are active on campus?
8. Does this college have fraternities/sororities? If yes, how many students belong to them? Does one have to join a fraternity/sorority to be a part of campus social life?
9. Do most students stay on campus during weekends?
10. Is housing guaranteed for freshmen? For all four years? Are freshmen required to live on campus? Do most students live on campus?
11. How are roommates selected?
12. What kind of housing is available? Dorms: single/double/triple/suite-style rooms? Apartments: on-campus or off-campus? Specialized housing: international houses, chem-free houses, other special interest houses?
13. What intercollegiate athletics are offered? Are there open tryouts?
14. What intramural or club sports are available?
15. How many classes are taught by graduate assistants? Freshmen classes?
16. What percentage of students receive financial aid? What percentage of need is met? What does a typical financial aid package look like? Are packages offered for four years? Are merit scholarships offered?
17. What student support services are available? Tutoring? Advising? Counseling/mental health services? Health care? Religious organizations? Other?
18. What technology resources are available? Is printing free?
19. How large is the library? What are its special features? What are its hours?
20. How safe is the campus? How does the college ensure the safety of its students?