



Campus Visit Tips



Before the visit

- **Call the college's admission office**
- Verify the times of campus tours and/or information sessions (these may be separate events)
- Inquire about an appropriate arrival time to campus (time may be needed to complete forms before tours or appointments)
- Schedule an appointment with an admissions representative
- Ask if an interview is a required part of the application process
- Schedule an appointment with other campus personnel (coaches, faculty, financial aid officers, etc.)
- If classes are in session:
 - Arrange to attend a class
 - Inquire about staying overnight in a residence hall
 - Arrange to eat in the dining hall
- **Prepare**
- Arrange to take a copy of your transcript and resume. While not required, these documents may prove to be helpful in conversations.

During the visit

- **Take the tour**
- Observe the condition of all buildings/facilities: Are buildings in good condition? How "wired" are the residence halls for computer use? Are appropriate safety measures in place?
- Ask questions: What do students do on the weekends? What are the most popular campus activities? What is the average class size in English, science, social sciences, etc.? What would be the one thing that the tour guide would change about the college?
- Keep a sharp eye: Do the students seem friendly? Does it seem to be an academically "pressured" atmosphere or academically "laid-back?" What topics are advertised on student bulletin boards?
- **Visit with an admission counselor**
- Admission counselors are a great source of information for you regarding an institution's programs and the application process. Frequently, a specific admissions representative may be assigned to your high school and is familiar with your educational environment. Enjoy your opportunity to visit with this person and be sure to ask for a business card for your files.
- **Attend a class**
- Pay attention to class size, student-professor interaction, and student interaction. If possible, secure a class syllabus to review academic scope of course and class expectations.
- **Visit key student areas**

- Talk to students other than the tour guide. Ask them what their most favorite and least favorite aspect of the college is and why. Are there a large number of bikes on campus? Is there public transportation? Are there community service-based organizations?
- **Meet with an academic advisor/faculty member**
- If you have a specific program in mind, be sure to visit with someone in that area. Ask about available study opportunities, internships, and career placement. Ask what percentage of classes is taught by teaching assistants
- **Stop by the financial aid office**
- Pick up information about the college's financial aid process. Ask for any scholarship materials. Make notes about important deadlines.
- **Visit a residence hall**
- If your tour did not include a stop at a residence hall be sure to ask to see a room. Check out security features of dorm life. Ask about meal plans and food options. Inquire about roommate pairing procedures. Make a note of any housing deadlines.

After the visit

- **Make notes**
- Be sure to record the name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of campus staff and /or personnel with whom you talked.
- Write down your impressions about the aspects of the college that you liked and make notes about your possible concerns.
- **Thank-you notes**
- If a staff member was particularly helpful during your visit, you may want to send a note of thanks to that person.
- **Additional thoughts**
- Don't let the weather influence your evaluation of a college. Sunny days and rainy days can both be misleading.
- **Tour guides**
- Be cautious that you do not frame your opinion of a college based on how well you liked the tour guide. It is important to visit with many students to get a realistic impression of the student body personality and diversity.

www.AIE.org/Handouts