

## Campus Visit Guidelines

**Timing of Your Visit** – Although summer or holiday breaks are a convenient time to visit a college, it is preferable to visit a college campus during the academic school year. Try to schedule a campus visit during those periods that college classes are in session and avoid visiting during major college exam periods. A good time to visit is during your high school spring break, as colleges often have spring breaks during a different time.

**Prior to Your Visit** – Learn about the college you are interested in. The more you know before your visit, the more relevant your questions will be. Read materials from the college and check out their web site. Write down a list of questions in a notebook you can take with you. If you are visiting more than one on a particular day, refresh your memory about that school just before you arrive.

**Scheduling Your Visit** – Schedule a campus visit at least three to four weeks in advance. This may be done on the school's website or by calling the admissions office. Arrange for a student-led tour of the campus. If possible, ask to visit a class or even spend the night on campus. You may request a visit with a professor from a specific department or a coach if interested in athletics. Spend at least one-half day at each college.

### While on Campus

- **Campus Facilities** – Explore computer and science laboratories, library, sports and recreational complex, bookstore and any other areas of special interest including art, music or theatre facilities. Are there fitness facilities on campus? What is the accessibility of all those facilities? Check out the buildings and grounds. Are they well kept? Take photographs and record your impressions, good and bad, of the campus.
- **Dorms** – Find out about the available dorm options. Are they all-freshmen or co-ed? Fraternity or sorority houses? Off campus housing? Where are they located on campus? Notice the living space, air-conditioning, heating, bathrooms, etc. Is internet or cable TV available in the dorm room? Are microwaves or refrigerators allowed? Are the common areas pleasant? What is the percentage of students who live on campus? Are there regulations on visitors or curfews?
- **Dining Halls** – Check out the student union and its hours. Is there just one cafeteria on campus? Snack bar? What meal plans are offered? What kind of variety in food? Is the quality good? Have lunch in the dining hall if possible.
- **Campus Security** – Is it possible to come back to the school at night to check out the lighting? Walk the campus from the residence hall to the library. Will you feel safe living on campus? Has there been a history of crime? If so, what preventative measures has the college taken? Are there emergency call boxes on campus? How is access to the dorms controlled?
- **Student Life** – Pick up a copy of the student newspaper to take home with you. Take time to read bulletin boards in the dorms and student union to find out what is happening on campus. Look for a copy of a monthly calendar of events. Check out clubs, activities and organizations that interest you. What intramural activities are available?

- **Questions To Ask Students:**
  1. What do you like about this college? What do you dislike?
  2. What do students do on weekends? Do most students go home or are there activities to participate in?
  3. Is it possible to study in your dorm room? Do you like to study or do research in the library?
  4. How much time do you spend studying outside of the classroom? Is that typical here?
  5. Is it relatively easy to get the classes you want at registration time?
  6. Why did you choose this college? Would you do it again?
  7. Are faculty members accessible outside of class? Can you get help when you need it?
  8. Are campus jobs readily available?
  
- **Questions To Ask Professors:**
  1. What is a typical workload of homework, papers and tests in your class?
  2. How accessible are you to the students? Are you only available during office hours or do you interact with students outside of class?
  3. Do students have the opportunity to assist with faculty research? Are students encouraged to pursue their own research? What about internship possibilities?
  4. What differences can I expect between a high school and a college class?
  5. Who teaches freshmen students in lectures and lab courses?
  6. What is the teacher to student ratio?
  
- **Questions To Ask Yourself:**
  1. Did I feel welcomed by the staff and students? Can I picture myself living here for four or more years? Is there a sense of community?
  2. Will I fit in with the students I've seen and met during my visit?
  3. Is the mission of the school in line with my value system and personal goals?
  4. Will the academic programs challenge me and prepare me for a career?
  5. What is the surrounding town or city like?
  
- **Questions From Parents:**
  1. What support systems are in place to assist freshmen students during their transition from high school to college life? (For academics and residential living)
  2. How are freshmen students advised? Who advises them and describe the process?
  3. How many students return from their freshman year to the sophomore year?
  4. What options are available for study abroad? What financial assistance is available to those students?
  5. What is the profile of students, including academic profile, ethnic diversity, religious diversity, gender balance and geographical distribution.
  6. What scholarship and financial aid opportunities are available to applicants?
  7. What medical services are available on campus? Where is the nearest hospital? How are students billed for medical services?
  8. Can freshmen have cars on campus? What are the parking or transportation options?
  9. What types of community service learning opportunities exist and are supported by the institution?