

# Planning a College Visit

## Arrange a Visit:

	Decide which college(s) you want to visit. If you are going far away, can you go to multiple colleges of interest at one time?
	Review college website, any brochures, or additional information you have on the school. Talk to teachers, college counselor, or school counselor to gather information they might know about the college. Ask yourself, is this college a good fit for me?
	Decide on dates you are available to visit the college. Things to consider: homework, athletic schedule, parent / guardian schedule, work schedule, etc.
	Think about transportation (drive, bus, train?). How will you make it to the college on time for your visit?
	Visit college website. Typically under "Admission" tab you will find "Visit campus." Read this page to determine best way to contact school.
	Contact school. Call, email, or fill out a survey to express your interest in visiting their campus
	Write date down in calendar
	Confirm visit a couple days in advance. Ask any follow up questions such as: How long tour will be? What other activities are available to me while I am on campus?

## Get Ready

	Explore the college's website and review materials that you have about the college. Write down any specific questions you have for the college.
	Make a list of questions to ask admissions representative, financial aid representative, students, or staff you encounter. See below OR <a href="#">Campus Visit Checklist</a>
	Schedule time to walk through campus by yourself (if you can)
	Pack a college comparison sheet (see below) OR <a href="#">Campus Visit Scorecard</a> , notebook, camera (phone),
	Print map- locate buildings or places you want to visit (ex: gym, library, theater, dining hall, sports arena). Find where admissions office is.
	Make travel/ Hotel Arrangements
	Last Resort: Absolute cannot make it on campus? See if they offer a virtual tour

**Things to schedule:**

	**An informational session
	**A campus tour
	**Meet with an admissions counselor
	Attend a class
	Request to see a dorm - sometimes seen during tour
	Meet with a professor
	Meet with a financial aid representative
	Eat in the dining hall
	Spend a night at the dorm
	Club leaders- find the club contact person and schedule time to talk with them
	Athlete- schedule time to talk with coaches

**During the visit:**

	Walk around public areas
	Attend a club meeting or sports practice / event
	Write notes, take pictures to help you remember your visit
	Pick up a free college newspaper
	Pick up financial aid forms
	Walk or drive through the town
	Talk to a current student

**After the visit:**

	Follow up your visit with a thank you note to the college representatives whom you've met.
	Talk to somebody about your college visit. Reflect on how the visit went for you
	Ask yourself. Can I picture myself here?

## Compare Colleges

<b>College Name</b>			
<b>Location</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Location &amp; size of nearest city</li> <li>● Transportation required (air, train, bus, car)</li> </ul>			
<b>Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Setting (urban, rural)</li> <li>● Co-ed, male, female</li> <li>● Enrollment</li> <li>● Religious affiliation</li> </ul>			
<b>Admission Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deadlines</li> <li>● Tests required</li> <li>● Average test scores, GPA</li> <li>● Required application materials</li> </ul>			
<b>Selectivity Rating For You</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safety, Good fit, Reach</li> </ul>			
<b>Academics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Majors that interest you</li> <li>● Classes taught by professors or teaching assistants</li> <li>● Largest class size</li> <li>● Typical class size</li> <li>● Academic resources available</li> <li>● Percent of returning freshman</li> <li>● Graduation rate</li> </ul>			
<b>College Expenses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tuition, room &amp; board</li> <li>● Estimated total budget</li> <li>● Application fee &amp; deposit</li> </ul>			
<b>Financial Aid</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deadlines</li> <li>● Required forms</li> <li>● % of students receiving aid</li> <li>● Scholarships available</li> </ul>			
<b>Housing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Residence hall availability</li> <li>● Residence hall requirement</li> <li>● Room type and size</li> <li>● Food plan</li> <li>● % of student living on campus</li> </ul>			
<b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clubs, organizations</li> <li>● Varsity, club, intramural sports</li> <li>● Typical weekend activities</li> </ul>			

## **College Representative & Campus Visit Questions**

1. How many students are in the freshman class this year?
2. What are your smallest class sizes? The largest?
3. What are your admission requirements?
4. Where are the majority of the students from?
5. Are there opportunities to study abroad and research?
6. When should I apply for admission?
7. Do you offer scholarships and grants?
8. What type of financial aid programs do you offer?
9. What are the residence halls like?
10. Can a student live off campus?
11. Do all freshman students live in certain dorms?
12. Are there restaurants close by?
13. Can I have a car on campus?
14. How far do I have to go to get to my classes?
15. Are there sororities/ fraternities on campus? What is the percentage of Greek life?
16. Is there an honors program? If so, what are the requirements?
17. Do you have early admission programs?
18. What are the athletic/ recreational facilities like? Have they been updated recently?
19. What sets you aside from other institutions?