



The College Campus Visit

College visits are appropriate for any high school student. Early visits are for preliminary fact and impression gathering.

WHY SHOULD I VISIT A COLLEGE CAMPUS?

- Visiting the campus lets you see beyond the institution's brochures. Get a firsthand view of a college.
- Get answers to your questions.
- Get valuable information
- Ask yourself "Is this college right for me?"
- It's fun!

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR MY CAMPUS VISIT?

- Research a number of colleges to determine which you would like to visit
- Determine the best time for you and your family to visit the campus. Have several dates in mind in order to be flexible with the college schedule.
- Contact colleges to schedule your visit. Many colleges have preview days for future students. Check their websites. Take advantage of many aspects of a campus visit program: campus tour, classroom visit, information session, interview, appointments with important people on campus (Financial Aid, coaches, faculty, students, staff), overnight stay in student housing.
- Make sure to mention any necessary accommodations or special interests that you have. Create a list of questions that you and your family would like answered during your visit. Reflect and write down your expectations of the campus visit.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO THE CAMPUS VISIT?

- Confirmation materials and campus map, camera, notebook and pen. Academic transcripts, high school resume, list of important questions and expectations, appropriate clothing, and toiletries (if staying overnight).
- Come with an open mind.

ACADEMIC FIT

- Does this college have the academic program that I am interested in? Are there many students in my chosen academic program?
- What are graduates in the selected academic program doing now? How many students go on to graduate school?
- Does the teaching and learning style appeal to me?
- What is the average class size? Student-to-faculty ratio?
- Is the teaching done by professors or teaching assistants?

CAMPUS AND RESIDENCE LIFE

- What is the campus meal plan like?
- How is the food?

- What is the social scene like?
- How would you describe the security of the campus?
- What kinds of activities are planned by the college?
- Is there ample space in the dorms or does there seem to be a housing crunch? How many students are residents/commuters?
- What is the makeup of the current freshman class?
- Is the campus fairly diverse?
- What are the public transportation/parking options?
- What are the recreational facilities, library, and computer lab like?

ADMISSION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

- Can you describe the application review process for me?
- When completing the application, what should I pay closest attention to? What type of student is the college looking for?
- What type of student succeeds at your college/university?
- What percentage of applicants is accepted?
- Are there any special deadlines that I need to pay close attention to?

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- How available are faculty members to me?
- Is there tutoring available?
- If I need it, where can I go to get academic assistance?
- What minority student support services are available?
- How are special accommodations arranged?

FINANCIAL AID

- Can you describe the Financial Aid process for your college?
- What is the average Financial Aid package for incoming students?

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER MY VISIT?

- Write down your observations, reflections, and impressions of your visit as soon as possible.
- Make a list of follow up questions and contact appropriate college personnel to get answers.
- Consider follow-up visit if possible.

OVERALL

- Do I feel welcome and at home here?
- Look at the students you see on campus, do you believe you will fit in?
- Is this what I pictured my college experience to be?

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COLLEGE VISITS AT THE HIGH SCHOOLS

Each fall representatives from many community/technical colleges, universities and branches of the military visit Mt. Rainier High School. This is an excellent opportunity for students to ask questions and meet admission representatives. Look for the visit list on the high school's Career Center website and posted in the bulletin.

Top Ten Secrets to a Successful Campus Visit

1. Look at flyers and posters around campus to get a sense of what campus life and the student body is like.
2. Pick up a copy of student and local newspapers.
3. Gather business cards and contact information of staff and faculty that you meet with during your visit for future dialogue.
4. Sample campus dining.
5. Strike up spontaneous conversations with random students on campus.
6. Do not limit your visit to just the campus. Check out the local surroundings.
7. There is no such thing as a silly question. When in doubt, always ask.
8. Visit the campus when classes are in session.
9. Send thank you note to admissions staff.
10. Have fun!!

The Virtual Campus Visit

Not able to visit in person? You can still get a "feel" for life on campus. Go beyond the "Admissions" webpage and browse the school website as if you're a student. Get beyond the homepage and check out these links! (source: www.collegeboard.com)

College newspaper online

Computing services

Student clubs and activities

Check out a department

Student Government

Course catalog

Academic support

Athletics

Library

Dining services

Housing options

Health services