

COLLEGE VISITATION

It is beneficial for seniors to visit an institution of higher learning to help them in their future planning. However, a college visit is not considered a sanctioned school activity, but rather a parent-excused absence. The policies for such visits are as follows:

1. Seniors interested in post-secondary education are limited to two college visitations which must be completed by March 31, unless approved by the administration.
2. Students wanting assistance in setting up the visits or appointments with college personnel should see the guidance counselor. It is recommended that appointments be made two weeks in advance of the visit.
3. All students must meet with the guidance counselor three school days prior to the college visit and obtain necessary paper work.
4. Students should obtain a sign out sheet to be signed by a parent and turned into the office the day before the absence.
5. It is recommended that the student have taken the ACT/SAT prior to visiting the institution if the institution requires it for admission.
6. Any college/institution visit taken in which the proper procedure as outlined above is not followed, may be treated as a truancy, and detentions will be issued for each school period missed and/or the student will be assigned to a directly supervised service.

Your tour guide will be an actual student at the college you are visiting, so be prepared to ask questions. The questions below are examples of information that students may want to explore while meeting with a college representative or visiting a college.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES

- What departments have the largest percent of students enrolled?
- What percent of graduates go directly to graduate school?
- What percent of the faculty hold Ph.D. degrees?
- How large is the library? What are the library hours?
- Do some departments have higher admission standards for acceptance?
- What is the average entrance information examination score of entering freshmen?
- Do graduate students teach any sections of freshman courses? Of upperclass courses?
- What are required freshman courses? Sophomore courses?
- What computer facilities are available?
- Is there a security escort service across campus during evening hours?

STUDENT BODY

- What is the geographical distribution of the student body?
- How many foreign students attend the college?
- What is the average size of the freshman class?
- What percent of the freshmen do not return as sophomores? What percent of these are for academic reasons?
- What percent of the students remain on campus during weekends?
- What is the male/female ratio on campus?
- Are there religious groups or organizations available on campus?

FOOD SERVICE OPTIONS

- What meal plans are available? 20 meals? 15 meals? 10 meals?
- Do you have different meal options on campus? Vegetarian, etc?
- Can you get meal vouchers to eat anywhere on campus?

- Are meals served in the dorms or are they in a central dining area?
- What provisions are available for after dinner snacks? In the dorms or dining area?
- Quick food service in the Student Union? Vending machines in the dorms?
- What meal service is available on Sunday evenings?
- Are there fast food options available within walking distance of campus?

CAMPUS REGULATIONS

- Are freshmen permitted to have automobiles? Upperclassmen?
- Are parking facilities available?
- Are there curfews in the dormitories?

HOUSING

- Do all students live in dormitories?
- Are freshmen living and eating arrangements or other regulations different from the upperclassmen? How?
- Are the dorms coed? Explain.
- Are fraternities and sororities available? Are they national?
- What percent of the student body belongs to those societies?
- Is there sufficient dormitory space for those wishing it?

CAMPUS RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION

- How far is the nearest bus station? Airport? Railroad station?
- Does the campus have transportation service available to the airport, bus station, or railroad station?
- Is there special transportation available for incoming freshmen or at holiday vacation breaks?
- Is there travel service on campus that is available to students?
- How far is it to the nearest movie theater?
- Are there concert halls, museums, etc., in the community or area?
- Weekend activities on campus? What percentage stay on campus most weekends?
- Movies – how many were shown on campus last year and what do they cost students?
- Concerts – how many were held last year? Rock? Jazz? Classical?
- Did the campus sponsor dances? Were they open to the entire campus?
- Are there gym facilities available for recreational use?
- What intramural sports are available? How are they financed?

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE TOUR GUIDE

- Why did you choose this college?
- What was your best experience here?
- Why did you stay after freshman year?
- What's your plan for after graduation?

Some your best feedback will come from students who are actually at the college! They are living the life you may live everyday, so who better to give you insight on the day-to-day activities on campus?

After the tour write down five impressions you had of the school. Consider the campus personality, diversity of the student body, the size of the lecture halls and student interaction. These little mental reminders will help you compare colleges later.