

Taking a College Visit

After going on the college tour, families can use second semester of junior year and the summer to make college visits. Try to go on a visit when students are in school to get a more accurate picture of what the campus feels like. Even if you go for a visit in the summer when most students are gone, it would be worth your while to experience the campus. It is a worthwhile endeavor to walk around campus and see housing, departments, facilities, the relationship between town and campus, dining halls, and the admissions building.

Tips for taking a college visit:

- After the college tour, visit a college before you apply.
- Plan the visit in advance. Meet with your own college admissions counselor, coach, or meet faculty within your interested field of study. Schedule to go to a class or two.
- Take a tour. The individual tour guide could be a great representative of the school, but remember that is *one* member of the school community, not a representative of *everybody* in the school community.
- Research the school online before you go.
- Parents should certainly be involved, but you want the admissions counselor to remember the student, not the parents.
- Eat a meal on campus.

Questions to ask on a college visit:

- What organizations, ministries, and activities are on campus?
- Where do freshman live, and what are the housing options?
- What is the cost of tuition, room, and board? What financial aid and scholarships are available?
- Does each freshman get an academic advisor? How does the advisement process work?
- How many students graduate in four years?
- How are students supported when seeking a job, career placement, or graduate work within their major?
- What are the opportunities for study abroad or research?
- What are the majors or fields of studies? What are the most popular majors?
- What percentage of graduates go to graduate school?
- What are the average standardized tests scores? GPA? Do you take a weighted GPA?
- How easy is it to meet with faculty and who teaches the courses for first year students?
- What percentage of students are accepted each year?