

Campus Visit Checklist

Make the Most of Your Trip from www.CollegeBoard.com

Here are things you shouldn't miss while visiting a college.

- Take a campus tour.
- Have an interview with admissions officer.
- Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- Talk to a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you.
- Talk to coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- Spend the night in a dorm.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Try to find other student publications -- department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Ask a student why he/she chose this college.
- Wander around the campus by yourself.
- Read for a little while in the library and see what it's like.
- Search for your favorite book in the library.
- Ask a student what he/she hates about the college.
- Ask a student what he/she loves about the college.
- Browse in the college bookstore.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- Ask a student what he/she does on weekends.
- Listen to the college's radio station.
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour.
- Imagine yourself attending this college for four years.

Questions to Ask on a Campus Tour

Questions for the Admissions Office

1. Are the dorms spread throughout the campus or clustered in one area? Is there any kind of shuttle service between classroom areas, the library, the student union, and dorms? How late does it run?
2. Is there any security system to bar outsiders from entering dorms?
3. How large is the campus security police force? Does it patrol the campus regularly?
4. What services are offered by the campus health center? How large is it?
5. Does the student health center refer students to the local hospital? Is there a nearby hospital? How large is it?

Questions for Students

6. How many of your courses are taught by a big-name professor and how many by a teaching assistant?
7. Is the teaching innovative and project-oriented, or is it mostly lecture-oriented?
8. Do most freshmen class lectures take place in an amphitheater?
9. What are the strong majors? The weak majors?
10. How hard do you have to work for your grades?
11. What's the reputation of the _____ department?
12. How adequate for your needs is the campus computer network?
13. Do fraternities and sororities dominate the social life of the college?
14. What do students do on weekends? Do most go home?
15. How is the advisement system? Do you feel that your professors really care?
16. There are a lot of organizations on campus. Are they dominated by a few groups or is anyone welcome?
17. How active is the _____ [fill in the activity in which you're interested]? Has _____ won any national awards?

Questions to Ask Yourself About the Campus Atmosphere

18. While you were waiting for your interview in the admissions office, how did the staff members interact with students? Were they friendly, or did the staff approach students—both potential freshmen like you and enrolled students—as if they were interfering with the staff members' jobs?
19. Was the Admissions Office a friendly and inviting place with a great deal of information about the school, or was it cold and sterile with little information to pick up?
20. What did your parents find out about the career planning services offered to graduating seniors and to graduates? What do the services include?

About the Student Body

21. Do most of the students seem to be like you, or are they completely different?
22. Either way, how would you feel being in a classroom full of these students? Sharing a dorm with them?
23. Do the students try to make you feel at home? Are they happy to answer your questions, or do they make you feel like you're intruding? How do they interact with one another?

About the Campus

24. Does the campus seem too big? Or too small?
25. Do freshmen live in their own dorms? How do I feel about living in a single-sex or coed dorm?
26. Are the dorms quiet or noisy? Do they seem crowded?
27. How large are the rooms? Is there adequate space and light to study?
28. Does each room have access to the Internet and the campus LAN?
29. What's advertised on dorm and classroom bulletin boards? What does this tell me about campus life?
30. How good is the lighting around each dorm and around classroom and lab buildings?
31. Do the buildings and grounds look well cared for? Or do they need painting and general repair work?
32. Is the grass cut, and are the grounds landscaped?
33. What's the condition of the playing fields and the sports equipment?
34. How is the quality of the food in the cafeteria or dining hall? How are the sizes of the portions? Is it healthy or fast food? Are there meal plans?

About the Nearby Area

35. Does it look like there is much to do outside of campus?
36. How easy is to get to places off campus? Are there places within walking distance?
37. Do you feel comfortable and safe?
38. Are there places to get extra furniture, like bookcases, for your dorm room?
39. Is there a supermarket nearby to stock up on snacks and soda?
40. If you move out of a dorm after freshman year, what are the options in apartment complexes or buildings?