

CAMPUS VISITS

Whether you are a freshman or a senior, Spring provides excellent opportunities to visit colleges. Actually walking on campus is the best way to get the true feeling of a school. Here are some specifics to consider when making a campus visit. Ideally, you will be able to visit at a time when school is in session and the campus is alive with student life.

Before the visit:

- Verify Admission Requirements
- Read about the school
- Set up an appointment with the Admissions Office

During the Visit:

- Interview with an Admissions Counselor
- Determine actual college costs (tuition, housing, books, fees....)
- Discover Financial Aid opportunities
- Take a campus tour
- Attend a class
- Talk with students and faculty
- Investigate academic and extracurricular opportunities
- Discuss your chances of success during school and after graduation
- Ask yourself: Do I like the setting of the campus? (urban/suburban/rural)
Do I like the campus buildings and layout?
Do the students seem happy? Friendly?
Do students stay on campus on weekends?
How safe is the campus?

After the Visit:

- Send a thank you note to the school.
- Compare Visit with other Visits

CAMPUS VISITS

Meeting with an Admissions Counselor: The College Interview

Here are some tips :

Listen - you should not do all of the talking. When you ask a question, listen to the answer, and if possible, ask a follow up question. This lets the interviewer know you were listening, and that you know how to probe deeper.

Be positive - Stress your strengths, explain your weaknesses if asked, but do not dwell on the negative and do not complain.

Don't fight with the interviewer. If you are discussing something that you feel strongly about, and the interviewer disagrees with you, stick to your position, but do not condemn the interviewer's. Remember, it is about respect. The interviewer may also be seeking to determine if you are flexible and able to think on your feet.

Answer the Question - Be sure to answer the question of the interviewer. If you are confused, be sure to ask for clarification.

Keep the conversation going - You can pause every once in a while, but don't rely on the interviewer to run the show. You can ask questions, too.

Ask Questions - Don't be afraid of appearing stupid and don't assume that the interviewer will think that you don't know anything if you ask a question. Admission Officers are tolerant and are hired also to answer questions that you may have. Don't ask questions that relate to a "trouble" area. If you know nothing about foreign affairs, don't talk about them.

Be Honest – Do not try to be someone who you are not. If you do, you may end up being very unhappy, especially if you try to "Gloss over" some of your weaknesses. If you do not know the answer to a question, then say so.

Enjoy yourself – If you have fun, then you will survive! While it is natural to have anxiety, once you relax, and try not to worry about the interview, you may actually find that you will enjoy the experience!!! Not only that, but you may find yourself more successful as a result.

TIP: Send a "Thank You" note. Be sure to catch the name of your interviewer and send a personalized note. Be sure to spell the person's name right.

Questions that you could ask the interviewer:

General

How difficult is it to change majors in Senior Year? Do students do it?

Do graduate students teach undergraduates?

How are the students advised about which classes to take?

Are students involved in the evaluation on instructors?

Housing/Residence Life/Food Service

What percentage of your students are housed on campus?

What services are provided to residents? (Kitchen, laundry, etc.)

CAMPUS VISITS

How are roommates chosen? What happens if we don't get along?
Do you have your own food service, or is it catered?
Do I have to purchase a meal card?
What about evening meals and snacks?

Financial Aid

Will applying for financial aid influence admissions decisions?
Are students' needs met completely?
What are the institutions policies on divorced/separated families?
What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
What type of financial aid is available to students and their families?

Other

What differentiates your school from others with your same characteristics?
What kinds of personal qualities do students tend to have here?
What is the philosophy and/or mission statement of the school?
Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?
Tell me about your career planning service.
What is the average class size in my field of study?
What do students like best about this school?
What do students complain the most about?
Are there internship or study abroad opportunities?
Does this school have a stereotype? Are they accurate?
What do students do on weekends?
Are minority students comfortable here?
How does the college's religious affiliation effect campus life?
What do you like about living and working here?
What are some of your graduates doing now?

CAMPUS VISITS

Questions that the Interviewer might ask you:

Goals/Aspirations

What are your goals? What are your college and career goals?

How do you define success?

Have you set any academic goals? Have you met them? If not, why not?

Self-Awareness

In what ways are you like your parents? How are you different?

If I were to ask your teachers what your greatest strengths are, what would they say?

Explain your weaknesses?

How do you learn best?

Name a time that you have been involved in a team. What was your role?

What extracurricular activities have you been involved in?

Values

When you see yourself in college, how do you see yourself spending your most satisfying moments?

Who is/are your hero(es)?

What bothers you most about your world around you? If you had the opportunity and the responsibility to change the world, where would you start?

Individuality

What pressures do you feel operating on you in society to conform? Describe ways that you and your friends "go your own way."

Have you ever thought about not going to college? What would you do?

Intellectual Interests/Potential

Where and when do you find yourself most stimulated intellectually?

Do you write outside of school? What types of things do you write?

What are your academic preferences and interests? What subjects and courses have you enjoyed the most? Which have been most difficult?

Describe a project or assignment that you particularly enjoyed and how you went about completing it.

Interest in School/Other

What is the most significant contribution you've made to your school?

What do you feel that you have to offer to (NAME OF COLLEGE)?

After a long, hard day, what do you most enjoy doing?

What factors will weigh most heavily in deciding on which colleges to apply?

CAMPUS VISITS

Attending a Class

When you attend a class ask yourself:

Are students interested in the material?

Is there time for discussion?

Are students prepared for class?

Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place?

Do I feel that the students are learning new facts or new ways to think about a subject?

Is there a good rapport between the professors and students?

Would I feel comfortable as a student in this setting?

Can I learn in this environment?

The Campus Tour:

Are the older buildings in good repair? Are there new buildings?

Is lab equipment up-to-date and plentiful?

What kind of technology is available to students?

Are rooms in the residence hall pleasant?...quiet enough to study in?

Are common areas in the residence halls attractive?

Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?

Are the grounds well kept?

What is the cafeteria/dining hall like?

Is the setting and architecture appealing?

What is the surrounding city like? Are there things that you like to do there?

What areas do students use to study?

Do students look happy?