

THE CAMPUS VISIT

There is no better way to learn about a college or university, the faculty, facilities, spirit, academic atmosphere, and student values, than to visit the campus when college is in session. It is better to see with your own eyes rather than rely upon the view of a recent alumni, friend, or undergraduate who may be somewhat partial.

- A. The campus visit can be considered "educational insurance."
 - 1. You are more likely to choose a college which is "matched" to your needs.
 - 2. You will have an opportunity to evaluate what students wear, how they live, etc.
 - 3. You will be able to observe where you will eat, sleep, study, worship, attend classes, and take part in campus activities.
 - 4. You are likely to do better work if you are in an environment which is congenial to your value system and needs.
- B. Preparing for a college visit.
 - 1. Arrange for your visit in advance. Avoid being a happy drop in.
 - 2. Your counselor will assist with the planning of an itinerary and appointments for a particular visit. Eastern colleges need advance notice, preferably two to three months.
 - 3. Allow sufficient time for a college visit. Preferably a full day; but not less than 1/2 day at each college.
 - 4. Familiarize yourself with the college catalog/bulletin before visiting so that you can ask intelligent questions when you arrive on campus.
 - 5. Inform the college about your areas of interest, curriculum, activities, etc. Indicate whether you have applied for admissions.
 - 6. Know facts about your high school before visiting; percentage of graduates going on to college, average test scores, etc.
 - 7. Summarize your personal data (interests, awards, activities, test scores, transcript, rank, etc.). Be prepared, in case you are asked.
 - 8. Give careful attention to your appearance, grooming, and conduct. The campus interview facilitates "putting a face" with a name. Often notes are kept and placed in your application file. Put your best appearance forward.
 - 9. Try to do the following:
 - a. Visit several classes.
 - b. Talk to several college students. Ask them about the academic and social life on campus.
 - c. Take your camera and notebook. Make notes while the information gained is fresh in your mind.
 - Impression of facilities and campus
 - Impression of faculty and students
 - Instructional program and regulations
 - Costs
 - Names and titles of officials you visited with while there

- d. Stay overnight in a dorm.
 - e. Have lunch in the dining hall.
10. What to learn about the college/university, and what to ask on campus visit:
- a. Classes:
 - 1) What is the average class size for freshman?
 - 2) Who will teach freshman courses -- graduate assistants for faculty?
 - 3) What level of degrees does the majority of the faculty have?
 - 4) What are the distribution requirements for a degree? Is math required of all students? Language?
 - 5) What is the faculty advisor system? How easy is it to meet with advisors?
 - 6) What is the availability of courses in the field you are interested in? Flexibility and special opportunities?
 - 7) What are the college's top three programs?
 - b. Campus:
 - 1) Does the college campus appeal to you? Is it too large/small? Is it easy to get around? Do the buildings appeal to you?
 - 2) How far is it from the local community? Easy access to stores?
 - 3) Is pride shown by students in maintaining a clean and well-ordered campus?
 - c. Housing:
 - 1) Are freshman required to live in a dorm?
 - 2) How is housing assigned? Is there a separate housing application? Deadline? Deposit?
 - 3) How many students per room? Are single rooms available?
 - 4) How are roommates assigned?
 - 5) Are rooms fully furnished or do you need to bring things?
 - 6) Are the dining facilities of the dorm satisfactory?
 - 7) What percentage of students lives on campus?
 - d. Religion:
 - 1) Is chapel required?
 - 2) Is there a church/temple of your denomination nearby?
 - e. Social and Recreational:
 - 1) What do students do on weekends? What percentage of students remains on campus during the weekends?
 - 2) Are there fraternities or sororities? What percentage of the students belongs? Are there opportunities for participation?
 - 3) Does the college have a social room or union?
 - 4) What varsity sports are played? Are there opportunities for participation? Are there intramural activities? Are the students active supporters of athletic events? Are the facilities adequate?
 - f. Admissions Criteria:
 - 1) How will the college/university be evaluating the student? What criteria are used in the process? (Test scores, GPA, rank, quota, area of study, recommendations, activities, and other subjective factors)
 - 2) Is the Admissions Office fully aware of the type of high school you attend?
 - 3) What is the enrollment and composition of the student body?
 - 4) What are the application deadlines and procedures?
 - g. College Costs and Financial Aid/Scholarship Opportunities:

- 1) What are the school's basic costs (tuition, room, board, and food)? What other costs are involved (books, personal, etc.)?
 - 2) What kinds of financial aid programs are available? What is the procedure for applying? Deadlines? Are work opportunities or loans available?
- h. Placement and Graduate Statistics:
- 1) How are the students who graduate viewed by employers?
 - 2) What percentage of graduates continues on with advanced studies? Pre-med? Law?
 - 3) What are some of the placement statistics of graduates not pursuing professional study? What employers visit campus?
 - 4) Is there a career-planning program for students?
 - 5) What is the average drop out rate? Why do students leave?
- i. General Atmosphere:
- 1) What is the college's history, objectives, extent of traditions, and direction of philosophy? How will it affect the student?
 - 2) What is the faculty's attitude toward students? Is it friendly?
 - 3) How is the student body as a whole? Are they happy, friendly, and independent?
 - 4) Do students appear serious about their work?
 - 5) What is the attitude of the students toward college administration and faculty?
 - 6) What are some of the regulations for students? Attendance Policy?
 - 7) Does the college appear to be relatively strict or fairly liberal?

11. After the Campus Visit

- a. Promptly write thank you notes to the Director of Admissions and other faculty who extended you courtesies while you were on campus.
- b. See your counselor; discuss what you have learned.
- c. Review evaluations and impressions.
- d. Begin ranking order of the colleges on your list.