

COLLEGE VISITS

The spring/summer of the junior year is an excellent time to make college visits. However, if you combine your campus visits with a summer family vacation, plan to revisit any college you are seriously considering when it is in “full swing” to fully experience its ‘feel’. You may also plan your visit for one of the “visitation” or “preview” days, usually scheduled in the fall and spring.

Focus on the broad picture, including the factors used in the College Board and ACT college searches - location, size, admissions selectivity, cost, majors available, and campus life. Make sure that you contact the admissions office to schedule a tour for yourself and your family. At many colleges, you will also be offered the opportunity to meet with an admissions counselor. When you interview, be prepared to ask questions. The following page includes sample questions that may help guide you.

Your parents may or may not be invited to sit in an interview with you. If they are present, understand that **YOU**, not your parents, will be asked the questions and should be the “take charge person”. Your parents will sit quietly in the background. At the end of the meeting, they may want to ask questions about areas not covered between you and the admissions officer. Be sure to remember the following:

- Take a copy of your transcript with you. See your school’s guidance counselor.
- Take a one-page resume with you listing your activities and accomplishments.
- When you return home, be sure to write a thank you note to the admissions counselor who met with you.
- Be confident, not arrogant. Always be polite and cooperative.

While you are on campus, try to do the following:

- Talk to students.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Talk to someone in the department you are considering as a major.
- Pick up a copy of the school newspaper.
- Attend a class.
- Visit the bookstore and read bulletin boards.

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Many schools will arrange for you to spend a night in a dorm with a student host. Once you have narrowed your choices to a few schools, find out if this is possible. Some colleges offer special overnight programs for seniors in the spring once they have been accepted for admission to the school.

College Visit Questions

Admissions:

1. What are the specific admission requirements? (Plan to take a copy of your transcript with you to the meeting.)
2. When is the application deadline?
3. What forms are necessary to complete the application process?
4. Is there a preference for paper or online application?
5. What are the fees associated with the application?
6. When can I expect a response as to whether I have been accepted? Will I receive a response more quickly with an online application?
7. If accepted, when must I notify the college as to whether I will choose to attend?

Scholarships:

1. What academic scholarships are available? What ACT/SAT score and/or GPA is required to qualify?
2. How do I apply for these scholarships – is there specific paperwork that must be filed?
3. What other specific scholarships are available – within my major, foundation scholarships, Madison County resident, etc?
4. If a scholarship is offered, when must I commit to accepting the scholarship?
5. What are the specifics of any scholarships that have been offered? (Example: If full tuition is offered, how many class hours are covered? Is the scholarship renewable? Is there a certain GPA that must be maintained in order to renew the scholarship in future years?)

Housing:

1. When do I need to apply for student housing?
2. What is the amount of the housing deposit? What amount is refundable if I choose to attend a different college or choose a different type of housing (apartment, etc.)
3. Is space limited?
4. What is the cost per year for housing? Does the charge differ from dorm to dorm?

5. Is there a requirement for freshmen to live on campus/in dorms?
6. What is the probability that I will be placed in the specific housing for which I have applied?
7. What meal plans are available? What are the costs of the meal plans?

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Credit for courses taken in high school:

1. Are there placement tests to determine which math/science/English course level I will enter? When are these tests administered?
2. What AP credits are accepted?
3. How many credits are accepted and which courses?
4. What score must be earned on the AP test in order to earn college credit? (scores 1-5)

Curriculum questions:

1. What accredited degrees does your college offer in the area of _____?
2. What specific coursework is required to earn a degree in _____? May I have a list of these courses?
3. Is a catalogue available in print form or are the course offerings posted on the internet?
4. Do you have a sample 4-year plan for completing the courses for this degree?
5. How long does it normally take a student to complete this degree?
6. Are there any specific recommendations for the personal computer I will bring to complete my coursework? (memory, processing speed, etc.)
7. Are any required courses offered on the web or are they all taught in a classroom setting?
8. What is the average class size for the courses I will be taking?
9. What is the percentage of classes taught by Graduate Assistants vs. Professors?
10. Can a student choose to audit a class?
11. Can I set up a time in the near future to visit a class-in-session?

Links for College Search Information:

Academic Common Market <http://www.sreb.org/programs/acm/acmindex.aspx>

Alabama Mentor www.alabamamentor.org

Brain Track College Guide <http://www.braintrack.com/us-colleges>

C3Apply <http://www.c3apply.org/>
Campus Tours <http://www.campustours.com/>
College Atlas <http://www.collegeatlas.org/>
College Board www.collegeboard.org
College Comparison <http://www.whatwilltheylearn.com/>
College Essays <http://www.teenink.com/College/Essays.html>
College Lists <http://collegelists.pbworks.com/>
College is Possible www.CollegelsPossible.org
College Match <http://www.matchcollege.com/>
College Net <http://www.collegenet.com/>
College Quickstart <http://www.collegeboard.com/quick>
College Search <http://www.gocollege.com/>
College Xpress <http://www.collegexpress.com/>
Colleges—By State <http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state/>
Colleges NOT requiring test scores <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional/state>
Collegeview Search <http://www.collegeview.com/>
CollegeWeek Live www.collegeweeklive.com
Common Application www.commonapp.org
Great Resource <http://www.collegiatechoice.com/>
Ivy League Admission http://www.collegeconfidential.com/ivy_league/
Kaplan www.kaplan.com
Major www.finduru.com
Majors <http://www.collegemajors101.com/>
Medical School Info <http://www.aamc.org/data/facts/start.htm>
Med. Programs, Accelerated <http://services.aamc.org/currdir/section3/degree2.cfm>
Medical School Help site <http://www.medicalhelpnet.com/content/view/28/46/>
Medical School Information <http://www.aamc.org/start.htm>
National Center for Education Statistics <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
NACAC Newsletter <http://www.nacacnet.org/Pages/default.aspx>
Office of Post Secondary Ed. <http://www.ed.gov/students/landing.ihtml>
Peterson's Guide <http://www.petersons.com/>
Princeton Review www.review.com
Two-year Colleges www.collegebound.net
Wired Scholar www.wiredscholar.com