

# Making Your College Visit a Success



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## DON'T:



### Don't JUST visit reach schools!

- ★ Most reach schools don't count demonstrated interest (so it won't help you in the admission process).
- ★ Many reach schools have beautiful, bucolic campuses and you will just end up falling in love!
- ★ It's more important to take a look at "target" or "likely" colleges to get a feel for whether or not you would be willing to apply and/or be happy there.

### Don't visit during the summer!

- ★ Many campuses are quiet and have a different feel during the summer.
- ★ Fewer students on campus = less opportunity to chat with students who attend.

### Don't just DRIVE By!

- ★ A "drive-by" visit just tells you what the buildings look like!
- ★ Park the car. Get out. Talk to students. Try to get a feel for whether or not the students there are "your people."

★★ Use the following pages to keep track of each college you visit. Print as many copies as college visits and get yourself a three ringer binder to collect data.

## DO

## (Before Your Tour):

- ★ Register in advance for an information session and tour.
- ★ Research the college online before you visit campus. ([Don't know how? Here's how!](#)) 
- ★ Be prepared with a few specific questions about what YOUR experience would be like – try to focus on academics here, as colleges primarily see themselves as academic institutions.
- ★ Give yourself enough time to park and walk to where you need to be.



# When You Arrive For Your Tour:

- ★ Check in with the admission office when you arrive.
- ★ Sometimes you don't get to choose your tour guide – but sometimes you do! If you do have a choice, choose the one who is majoring in something in which you're interested, or choose the one who has been a student there the longest (seniors know all the good info!).
- ★ Ask your tour guide questions about his/her **PERSONAL** experience at the college, instead of asking questions about statistics that can easily be found on the college's website. Remember that tour guides are paid to memorize specific statistics, and they are happy to spit those back to you. It's more valuable to ask questions and get answers about their own personal experience.
- ★ In addition to the campus tour and info session, make an appointment to meet with someone from the specific academic department(s) most interesting to you.
- ★ Eat a meal in the campus dining hall.
- ★ Tour the dorms and residential facilities, if they are not included in the main campus tour.
- ★ Find someone in the quad – someone who is not a tour guide – and chat with them for a few minutes.
- ★ Make an appointment to visit the academic advising and career centers to get a feel for how advising works, and to learn what internships and job opportunities the college might be able to help you access.
- ★ **TAKE NOTES!** Use the questions and guidelines in this packet to keep track of your impressions while you're on each campus.
- ★ **BASIC ETIQUETTE:** Don't wear a t-shirt or hoodie with a school other than the one you are visiting. Don't chew gum.





## Ask Students:

**College:**  
**Date of Visit:**

- ★ What's the largest class you've personally had?
- ★ Who's your favorite professor?
- ★ What did you do last weekend?
- ★ What do you do in your free time?
- ★ What have you NOT liked about your experience here?
- ★ If someone gave you a million dollars to spend here, how would you spend it?
- ★ How's the food?
- ★ When's the last time you interacted with a professor?
- ★ Have you had any internships? If so, did the career center help you get them?
- ★ Have you had any friends transfer out? If so, do you know why they left?



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## Ask Admission Officers:

- ★ What kind of student succeeds here?
- ★ What kind of student are you looking for?
- ★ Do you know my high school? What do you know about it?
- ★ Do you offer interviews? Are they evaluative or informational? Are they required or recommended?



## Ask Career Centers:

- ★ When do students generally make first contact with the career center?
- ★ What do you help students do?
- ★ How many recruiting fairs do you have on campus each year? Are they open to students of all majors?
- ★ Do you help students obtain internships as well as jobs?
- ★ What companies recruit here regularly?

**College:**  
**Date of Visit:**



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## Ask Academic Departments:

College:  
Date of Visit:

- ★ How many full-time professors do you have in your department?
- ★ What topics are they researching?
- ★ Do they invite undergraduates to help them in their research?
- ★ Is it possible to double major while pursuing a major in this department? How many students have a double major and/or a minor?
- ★ Where do your students go after they graduate with a degree in this department? (if graduate school – which ones? If jobs – which companies?)



## Ask Financial Aid:

- ★ Do you require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA?
- ★ Do you consider home equity as part of your need calculation?
- ★ Are your merit and need-based scholarships renewable for four years?
- ★ Will our financial aid package (including merit scholarships) remain intact if our student goes abroad for a semester? Or for a year?
- ★ Do you escalate tuition annually?



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# RATINGS FOR:

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Consider these statements and rate how they correspond to your feelings about the college on a scale from 1 (Swipe Left!) to 5 (DEF!)

**swipe left**    **1**            **2**            **3**            **4**            **5**    **def**

1. The campus is in a good location, and a good distance away from home for me.

                                              

2. I like the campus appearance.

                                              

3. I feel like I'm similar to the students here.

                                              

4. The school has the academic options I want.

                                              

5. There are a number of activities I'm interested in.

                                              

6. I'll feel supported academically and in my career exploration.

                                              

7. I like the overall feel I get when I visited.

                                              

8. These are my people!

                                              



## Memorable Things About This College:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Rate the different facets of the college you just visited on a scale of: 1 (Swipe Left!) to 10 (DEF!)



Academics



Campus Vibe



Students



Financial Aid



Career Center

**College:**  
**Date of Visit:**  
**Overall Rating:**

