

College Campus Visits

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

- Schedule an appointment for an official campus tour
- Register for an information session
- If appropriate because of special interests or demonstrated talents, make arrangements to meet with a faculty member or a coach to identify a potential fit for you for a specific program
- If you are ready to sit in on classes or even spend a night in a residence hall, ask the admission office to help you facilitate the arrangements

WHILE ON CAMPUS

Students

- Ask them what they like – and what has disappointed them
- Inquire about faculty accessibility, academic workloads, social life
- Note diversity and friendliness
- Think about student attitudes, energy and intellectual levels

Housing

- Confirm arrangements for freshmen
- Will you have guaranteed housing all four years
- Note what furniture is included in student housing
- How clean are the common areas

Library

- What are the hours
- Check accessibility of research materials – open stacks?
- How helpful is the staff

Dining

- Sample the food
- Look to see what options exist beyond the campus

Campus Atmosphere

- Urban, rural; large, small; public, private
- Ask for campus security statistics
- Get a school newspaper and explore the current issues: what are students complaining about; how does the administration deal with controversy
- Read the kiosks to assess activities and to see how students use their time outside of class
- Check out the bookstore and student center

Specialty Programs

- Investigate the areas you may want to pursue:
 - athletic facilities
 - fine arts programs
 - research labs
 - intramural programs
 - journalism opportunities
 - career placement services

FOLLOW-UP

- Jot down your impressions immediately. Soon details of campus visits will begin to blur and lingering impressions may become more difficult to substantiate; your impressions will take on renewed importance as you visit multiple colleges and try to sort through your reasons for choosing one over the others.
- Follow your instincts, but base them on solid research and a cross-section of observations. Ultimately, your pursuit is to ferret out the places where you can find an intellectual and social fit. Will you be challenged, will you be happy there for four years.

**REMEMBER: THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FIND
HAPPINESS AND BECOME A PRODUCTIVE CITIZEN!**