

## HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT

Selecting a college requires careful planning and evaluation of information. Visiting campuses is a very important part of this process. It is said that one picture is better than a thousand words; to observe something with your own eyes is better than a thousand pictures. Visiting a college campus provides that “look” which makes the institution have a personality all its own.

**The following suggestions may be helpful as you plan your college visits:**

- Call, write, or e-mail the admissions office for an appointment with an admissions counselor. Request a campus tour and an appointment with a faculty member in your major field of study.
  - Addresses and phone numbers can be obtained in Student Services or on the Internet.
  - Visit campus during a time when classes are in session, if possible.
- Research the college before your visit. The College Career Resource Center located in Student Services has information on many institutions. Read the literature carefully.
- Prepare a list of your courses, grades, test scores, honors, awards, and extracurricular activities to use as a reference during your visit. You may request an unofficial transcript from our Registrar to take with you. Discuss this information with the admission office representative.
- Attend a class, if possible, in the academic field in which you plan to major.
- If you are interested in a specific field, ask to meet with someone who can talk with you about that area of studies and potential careers.
- Take a campus tour – look especially at:
  - Residence halls, especially those where freshmen live
  - Dining rooms and food service (eat there, if possible)
  - Library
  - Student Center
  - Laboratories
  - Recreational and athletic facilities
  - Campus appearance
- Pick up a school newspaper as a means to finding out about current issues. Check the bulletin boards/ campus kiosk for clues on issues and activities.
- Ask questions. Ask the admissions representative. Ask other students on campus. Ask faculty.

You will discover that each campus has different and unique features – no two campuses are completely alike. The task is then to evaluate the data collected and your impressions from your visits and select the college which best suits your needs. Use the chart found in the Appendix to make notes while the visit is still fresh in your mind.

## MORE HELPFUL HINTS FOR CAMPUS TOURS

On most campuses the tour guide is a student selected by the college for his or her ability to project an acceptable image of the institution to the prospective candidate. Some are a bit short on candor, and somewhat hesitant to contradict the catalogue or admissions officer. Others are very honest and open about their experiences.

### Some questions you might ask your campus guide:

1. What's the largest class you've had here?
2. Who teaches your classes? (Graduate assistants or professors?)
3. Is there a required core curriculum? How restrictive is it?
4. How adequate is the library? Are you able to get the books you need when you want them?
5. When do you declare your major? What are the most popular majors?
6. Tell me about housing. Are some dorms much better than others? Do many students live off campus? Where do freshmen live?
7. How available are computers? Do you need your own computer? Is Internet access available from dorm rooms?
8. How competitive is the student body? Do students seem to work primarily for grades? What is the attitude toward working hard?
9. Have you been in any faculty homes since you have been here? How available are your professors?
10. Can you tell me anything first-hand about the (French, English, History, etc.) departments?
11. What is the biggest issue on campus right now?
12. What are the biggest issues in national and international politics? Are students politically active?
13. What percentage of students study abroad at some time? Where?
14. What impact do fraternities / sororities have here? Athletics?
15. What happens here on weekends? Do many students leave campus on the weekend? What night does your weekend start?
16. How active is student government?
17. Are the arts supported here? Which areas are strong?
18. If you could change things on campus, what would be different?
19. What do you like best about your experience and education here?
20. Is this a diverse community? Where do students come from?
21. If you could attend another college now, where would you go? Why?
22. Why did you choose this school? To what others did you apply?
23. Do you feel safe on this campus? In the neighborhood near campus?
24. Have you or your friends participated in internships? If so, where?

### Other Suggestions:

1. Attend a campus athletic or cultural event.
2. Pick up a copy of the latest newspaper.
3. Find a professor and get his/her perspective.
4. Meet a coach if you are interested in a sport.
5. Meet the head of an activity/interest you want to pursue in college.