



TIPS FOR CAMPUS VISITS

Junior and Senior years are the best times for students to visit colleges. Spring vacation is a good time for juniors to begin the process. Here are some tips to help you in your planning.

- Try to visit when the college is in session
- Call the admissions office at least a couple of weeks prior to your visit to inquire about campus tours and the advisability of scheduling an interview, particularly if you plan to apply
- Take a campus tour
- Talk with students and faculty
- Investigate the academic programs that interest you
- Meet with an admissions counselor
- Verify admission requirements
- Meet with a financial aid representative
- Determine actual college costs
- Inquire about a class visit or meeting with a professor
- Discuss your chances for success: admission, graduation, placement
- Limit each trip to no more than four colleges or you'll be overwhelmed with information.
- Remember to have the "Notification of College Visit" form signed by your teachers and returned to the Attendance Office at least five days in advance of your absence

Because the purpose of the visit is to help you find a comfortable college "fit", ideally visits should be arranged to allow you the opportunity to attend some classes and spend a night in the dorm. Give yourself time to explore the campus, visit the cafeteria, library, and, book store. Talk to students, and try to make an appointment with a faculty member in your area of interest. Don't hesitate to ask questions; you are the consumer!

Ask students...

- what they like about the college
- what they complain about
- the reasons why students transfer or leave
- about the attrition rate
- what the classes are like (lectures, discussions, rapport between students and faculty)
- who does the teaching
- about class size
- if professors are available after class
- how they spend their free time; about the range of campus activities; if most students are in residence on weekends

Keep a diary of your visits. Take pictures and write down your impressions of the college immediately after your visit. Be sure to write thank you notes to the tour guide and the interviewer. **Personal contacts are important.**