

Visiting Colleges

If possible a college visit offers students and families an idea of the actual experience that a college provides. Setting foot on campus may provide a confirmation or rejection of how you feel about the campus and whether or not to apply. Take full advantage of your visits by asking questions and getting a feel for the institution.

For those who qualify, several out-of-state colleges/universities offer stipends to assist in travel costs for students who are economically disadvantaged. Please ask your guidance counselor.

If you are unable to visit a college campus many offer virtual tours online. Admissions Offices encourage prospective students and their parents to call and ask any questions about the college or campus life.

When to Visit

It is best to see a college campus when students are present and classes are in session (during our spring break is often good). Campus tours at most colleges are offered once or twice a day throughout the year. Some colleges sponsor “visit days” when students can spend the entire day touring the campus, visiting classes, hearing about activities, visiting the dorms, and eating in the dining hall. Summer may be easier for families and is also a good time to visit.

Before Your Visit

Look at the school’s website or call the admission office directly several weeks or more ahead of time to determine when they offer tours and group information sessions. Many schools offer them on a drop-in basis; some schools may require you to make an appointment.

The more you know about the campus before you visit, the more prepared you will be to evaluate the college when you arrive. Check the admissions website, and call or email the and ask about campus tours and information sessions, and any special days that might be scheduled for all-day programs for prospective students.

What to do when you visit

Attend the group information session. These are usually held at the admission office and are especially helpful if you haven’t scheduled an interview. Take a tour. These are usually led by a current student. Talk to students. Don’t be afraid to approach someone and ask them about his/her experience. A visit might include some of the following suggestions and questions:

Allow plenty of time for your visit. Plan to spend several hours at each college. When planning your visit, find out about directions and driving time.

Be sure to record your impressions for later comparison. This is very important! You may find the following checklists useful or create your own! [NACAC Checklist](#) [College Board Checklist](#) [Cappex Checklist](#) [Questions to Ask When Choosing a College](#)

