

Q&A

Have Planned your campus tours?

Q&A's College Admissions: Campus Visit Checklist

How to Make the Most of Your Trip:

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors and students. Below are some other things you can do while visiting. Note that some activities, such as meeting with an admission officer or staying overnight in a dorm, might need to be set up in advance.

ARRANGE YOUR VISITS NOW...Tours fill up fast. Q&A can help you figure out which colleges to visit.

1. **Decide Where & How: School, small group of friends or take a family trip**
2. **Prepare for your trip: either call or book online your college tours**
3. **Take a tour on your own: see below; make sure you fill out a card in the admissions office, but also post & #hashtag the college you are visiting #UPENN**
4. **Explore facilities & Visit a professor: see our guidelines below**
5. **Make Connections: especially with current students; and keep track of their names for your "Why this college" essays**
6. **Take notes: date them and talk about highlights, answer the question, and write it down: "What makes this university special?"**

Go to [Q&A College Admissions](#) and download our free **What Questions to Ask During Your Visit** guide:

Gather Information

Find out what you need to do to apply and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.

- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- *Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you. Check office hours online, and download Q&A College Admissions guide: "What QUESTIONS to ask during your visit"*
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names of the people you meet and their business cards so you can contact them later if you have questions.

Explore the Campus

Get a feel for student life and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about life on campus and the college.
- Check out the freshmen dorms and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore and other campus facilities.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Check Out Campus Media

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Review the college's social media sites, and follow them if you are interested.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers and literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.

Questions to Ask During Your Visit

Here are some questions you may want to ask your tour guide or students you meet on campus:

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?

Other Items to Think About:

1. Set the tone immediately after leaving.

- After leaving a campus choose a nickname this will help you recall the campus.

Surf Nation/Green University/Way too Small/Ideal Match

2. Remember your guide is one representative of a campus not the whole deal.

- If you don't click with tour guide but the campus seemed ideal on paper may be it still is ideal...so focus on elements that appealed to you instead.

3. Follow the students, ask questions of those with similar interests, even if they are other potential applicants or students. At the bookstore, in the admissions office, when you purchasing food...a great question is "Are you a student here, what you like about the campus."

- Sometimes during the tour you meet others with similar interests, if so, ask them where they are looking as well. Or if you meet current students with similar interests don't be afraid to ask for their contact information because you may be able to engage them later especially with additional questions. For you this might be as simple as asking about a surfing team or club etc. Keep it simple and ask questions that will keep you engaged.

4. Be present. Listen well. And observe. And discover what students love.

- For me this means I gotta taste the food, spend time in the student commons, and find out out how others engage the city around me.

5. If there is important to you so get underneath that priority (theater, environmentalism, journalism...ask about campus resources, majors etc.

- One of your potential application themes will be based on the environment and business.

6. If they ask for major information, list your major interest as undecided for the time being.

Q&A

Q&A COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TOUR

QUESTIONS TO ASK DURING YOUR VISIT

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

What are the best reasons to go to the college?

What is like to go from high school to college, what do you wish someone had told you?

What are some of the best things to do on campus? What are can't miss spots/activities?

What do you really like about this university/

What would you change?

Why did you apply? Where else did you apply?

What's the neighborhood/area like?

I am really interested in XXXX what do you know about the activity?

ASK PROFESSORS

What are the best reasons to attend?

What aspects of teaching/learning/ and this department do you really think is terrific?

What types of student mentoring in this department?

How does this department promote students to have access to professors outside of class?

What are other ways do professors interact with students? Participate in student-run groups, or organizations?

How many students do research or other kinds of projects for the semester or more?

What type of students thrive in this major?

How many students typically graduate in the major that I am interested in? In what ways does the college help students graduate in a timely manner?

Are there things I can do before applying to improve my chances?

Talk about one current or former student who really thrived here, and what did they do that made them thrive?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

How much has your total cost for attending risen over the four years? What is the average cost of tuition increases?

How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?



THE COLLEGE VISIT WORKSHEET

COLLEGE NAME: _____

Date of Visit _____

VISIT TIPS AND HINTS

Here are some ways to round out your visit. The main thing is to explore and get a sense of what it would be like to attend.

- Take a campus tour.
- Take pictures.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Pick up an application.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Look at bulletin boards for day-to-day life.
- Check out a real dorm room.
- Read student newspapers.
- Sit in on a class or two.
- Talk to a professor in a subject of interest.
- Talk to a coach in your sport.
- Walk around town.
- Go to a campus event—game, concert.
- Ask current students what they love/hate about the college.

CONTACTS

Write down the names of anyone you want to remember or contact later—admissions and financial aid staff, professors, coaches, or students.

name: _____

contact: _____

CAMPUS RATINGS

Rate these areas from 1 (low) to 5 (high) Jot down your impressions — Things you like or don't like, Things you want to make sure you remember.

CAMPUS 1 2 3 4 5

DORMS 1 2 3 4 5

CLASSES / ACADEMICS 1 2 3 4 5

LIBRARY 1 2 3 4 5

FOOD 1 2 3 4 5

FITNESS CENTER 1 2 3 4 5

SOCIAL LIFE 1 2 3 4 5

CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF HERE?

OTHER NOTES: