

## College Visit Tips

Plan to visit one school a day and no more than two depending on time constraints. Below you will find helpful information depending on how much time you have.

If you are interested in possibly applying to a school and they offer an interview, you should sign up for it. Schools will typically offer interviews to any student (whether you have applied or not), so check their website to learn more. Many schools will finish interviews in November of your senior year. Your college counselor can help prepare you for the interview.

Schools will offer Open Houses in the spring and others in the fall. You should check the website for each school to see what they offer and what works with your calendar. Please note that some students wait to visit a college once accepted and participate in an accepted student program in the spring.

Depending on your schedule, you should carefully consider when the best time of the year to visit a college campus is. Each school designs their own visit experience for students. You should check the school website to see what they offer and when.

### If you have just a few hours:

- Check the school's website and sign up for a tour and information session.
- Try to meet the Maryland representative. Each school assigns an admission director to an area of the country. This person will review your application for admission so it's important to be on his/her radar. If the representative is not available ask for their business card and send a follow up email expressing your interest in the school.
- Once you are done with the "formal" visit to the college, you should see the campus on your own. Venture into the local café/hangout and see what kids are doing, for example.
- Pick up a copy of the student newspaper and take a look at the bulletin boards to see what the hot topics on campus are.
- If you meet with anyone on campus, ask for their business card and make sure you send a thank you email for their time.
- Take pictures of each school you visit. Refer to the attached evaluation sheet to keep track of your impressions of the school.

### If you have a whole day:

- Check and see if the school offers lunch with a student, an overnight stay, visit a class or an interview for prospective students. If they do offer these, you should do them based on how much time you have to spend there and how interested you are in the school.
- Try to meet the Maryland representative. Each school assigns an admission director to an area of the country. This person will review your application for admission so

it's important to be on his/her radar. If the representative is not available ask for their business card and send a follow up email expressing your interest in the school.

- If you are interested in a particular area of study like dance or sports- email or call the department and see if you can meet with them or see a class while you are there. You should contact them several weeks before your scheduled visit. Prepare a list of questions for your visit based on the program offered and always send a thank you email to the person/people you met with. This is an excellent way to get another perspective on a school other than the admission office.
- Once you are done with the “formal” visit to the college, you should see the campus on your own. Venture into the local café/hangout and see what kids are doing, for example.
- Pick up a copy of the student newspaper and take a look at the bulletin boards to see what the hot topics on campus are.
- Take the time to explore the town/city the college is located in. It is important to see for yourself what it is like and what there is to do.
- Take pictures of each school you visit. Refer to the attached evaluation sheet to keep track of your impressions of the school.
- Have questions ready and don't be shy to ask them.
- If you meet with anyone on campus, ask for their business card and make sure you send a thank you email for their time.
- Some questions you may want to ask:
  - How much time do students spend studying each week?
  - How much writing is expected?
  - How much reading is expected?
  - How often do students work together on class projects?
  - Are faculty accessible and supportive?
  - Do students receive prompt and detailed feedback on assignments?
  - How often do students talk/meet with faculty outside of class?
  - Do students work on research with faculty?
  - Are there support services on campus like for example, writing?
  - How is the academic advising program?
  - Are there internships available?
  - Are the study abroad opportunities available?
  - What are the most popular activities for students on campus?
  - What is social life like? What do students do on weekends?
- Questions to ask yourself
  - When visiting the dining hall/food court, what table will I sit at? Do I sense there will be a peer group for me?
  - Do I feel comfortable in this college setting? Do their values align with mine?
  - Do the kids seem friendly and outgoing?
  - Is this school too big for me? Or too small?
  - Is this city/suburban/rural setting ideal for me?

Does the school offer a wide range of courses since I am undecided?

What are the requirements for graduation? I don't want to take calculus in college.