

## Making the Most of a College Tour

***Gather as much information as possible while on campus.***

Can you imagine buying a home or a used car after just seeing a photo in a newspaper ad or on the Internet? Most of us hesitate to make a major purchase or decision without some investigation.

### ***Call ahead***

Most colleges and universities prefer about two weeks notice to set up a tour. Set up a meeting with an admissions counselor, with a professor or advisor in the major the student plans to study, and if possible, meet with a student from your hometown or with the same major.

### ***Questions for Your Visit***

The purpose of visiting a college is to find out more information about the school. However, to find out the information you want, you may need to ask some questions. In general, you may want to avoid asking open-ended questions. By asking a question that only requires a "yes" or "no" response, you will not receive the information you are seeking. Give yourself enough time and take notes. Write down comments, observations, and questions.

### **Academics**

Visit while classes are in session. Observe how the faculty and students interact. Are the teachers engaging and interested in the students? Are students satisfied with the classes?

#### **Ask:**

What are your most well-known programs?

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Are you able to register for the classes you want?

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Who teaches the courses for first-year students?

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Are all freshmen assigned to an academic advisor? Yes / No

How big are the classes?

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Do you accept AP credits? Yes / No

Are professors required to have office hours? Yes / No

Ask what kind of advising or career counseling services the college offers, and does the college offer tutoring?

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How successful are the college's graduates in finding jobs?

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**Student Life**

Visit important places on campus. Tour a couple of dorms. Eat lunch in a dining hall. Get a true feeling of how students live.

Where do most freshmen live?

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What activities and services are available to help students get settled (academically and socially) during their first year?

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What services (such as transportation and shopping) are available locally?

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Do you offer a shadowing or overnight program for prospective students? Yes / No

Tell me about on and off campus ministries for college students and churches in the community.

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Which on-campus activities do you offer?

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How do students find out about off-campus activities?

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What is there to do on weekends?

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Do most students stay or leave campus on weekends? Stay / Leave

Is housing guaranteed? Yes / No

Are the dorms co-ed? Yes / No

What is the visitation policy for dorms?

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What percentage of students are commuters?

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### **Financial Information**

What is the annual tuition?

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What is the total cost of attending the college?

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Am I automatically considered for any merit-based college scholarship when I apply?      Yes / No

### **Additional questions you might like to ask for your own personal reference:**

#### **General Information and Educational Aspects**

- ◆ How many students are in your freshman class?
- ◆ Do you have graduate assistants teaching classes?
- ◆ Are non-English professors & graduate students required to pass an English proficiency exam before teaching classes at the college?
- ◆ What kind of GPA is required to enter or stay in my field of interest?
- ◆ What percentage of students are pursuing a major in my intended field of study?

#### **Cultural Aspects & Housing Options**

- ◆ Student body profile - Where do students generally come from?
- ◆ Is there geographic quota in the admissions process?
- ◆ What percentage of the student body live on campus?
- ◆ Dorm options: Co-ed?      Single sex?      Quiet floors?      Honors dorm?      Suites?
- ◆ Are laundry facilities available in the dorm?      Study rooms available in the dorm?

#### **Food Service Options**

- ◆ What meal plans are available?
- ◆ Can you get meal vouchers to eat anywhere on campus?
- ◆ Are meals served in the dorms or are they in a central dining area?
- ◆ What meal services are available on Sunday?
- ◆ Are there fast food options available within walking distance of campus?

#### **Campus Recreation and Transportation**

- ◆ How far is the nearest bus station? Airport?
- ◆ Are students allowed to have a car on campus? Is there travel service on campus that is available to students?
- ◆ Are there gym facilities available for recreational use?
- ◆ What intramural or intercollegiate sports are available?