

COLLEGE VISITS

All colleges have admission offices that can help you plan your visit. Contact the college admission office through the college's website (or by email or phone) to get details and to make a reservation. (Also, if you plan to play a college sport, ask to set up an appointment with the coach and/or team members.)

1. Take a tour – check facilities, including dormitories (spend a night in the dorms, if possible).
2. Talk to students, a very useful source of information about a college... but remember that a student's personal opinions must be considered with care.
3. Visit a class: talk with a faculty member, if possible.
4. Have a meal on campus.
5. Visit the student union building, coffee shop, or snack bar as a place to meet students.
6. Check the bulletin boards in the student union or cafeteria. Read the campus newspaper as a means of finding out what the issues are on campus.
7. Ask questions!!! Don't be bashful!!!
8. Take notes and pictures to help yourself remember your impressions and details about the school.

Twenty Questions to Ask During a College Visit (Plus Nine Annoying Questions Your Parents Should Ask)

from www.eduguide.org

The object of the game Twenty Questions is to get enough information to be able to correctly identify an object. These twenty questions can help you figure out whether a school is the perfect college for you. Ask them during your college tour or admissions interview.

Five Questions To Ask the Admissions Counselor

1. What services are available to help students make a successful transition to college life?
2. Are most freshman classes taught by professors or by graduate students? How many students are likely to be in my first-year and introductory classes?
3. What kind of financial aid do most students receive? What scholarship, work-study, and grant programs am I eligible for?
4. What makes this college different from [a similar or competing college]?
5. Do most of the college's students get good jobs after graduation? Do many apply to graduate school? Do they have a high acceptance rate?

Five Questions to Ask Your Tour Guide or Other Students

1. What do students do on the weekends? Do most students go home, or are there lots of activities to participate in?

2. Do you feel that your professors really care about you and the other students? Can you get help when you need it?
3. Where else did you look when you were applying to colleges, and what made you choose this one?
4. Is there anything you don't like about this school? What do you like best?
5. What are the top three issues that concern students here?

Five Questions to Ask a Professor

1. What is a typical workload of homework, papers, and tests in your classes?
2. How accessible are you to students? Are you only available during office hours, or do you interact with students outside of class?
3. What are the main differences I can expect between a high school and a college class?
4. Do students have the opportunity to assist with faculty research?; Are students encouraged to pursue their own research?
5. What do you like most about teaching here? Why did you decide to teach at this school?

Five Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Will I fit in with the students I've seen and met during my visit?
2. Will the academic programs challenge me and prepare me for a career?
3. Are there clubs, activities, and organizations that interest me?
4. Did I feel welcomed by the staff and students? Can I picture myself living here for four or more years?

Nine Annoying Questions Your Parents Should Ask

1. What is college campus safety like? Can students request escorts to their dorms late at night? Are there emergency call boxes throughout campus? What kind of training do campus security personnel receive?
2. What security measures are in place in the dormitories? How is access to the dorms controlled?
3. Can students have overnight guests? Are there rules about visitation by members of the opposite sex? Are there any single-sex dorms? How about substance-free dorms?
4. What academic and emotional support systems are available to students? Do you have a counseling center? Is there tutoring help available?
5. What medical services are available on campus? Where is the nearest hospital? How are students billed for medical services? Is student health insurance available?
6. Is there much partying on campus? Are there certain activities that are grounds for expulsion? Will I be informed if my child does something illegal?
7. How are roommates chosen? What is the process for handling conflicts or incompatibility between roommates?
8. What is the return rate for second-year students? What are some of the reasons students leave or transfer?
9. What is a typical financial aid package like? Do most students receive financial aid? Can you help us with the financial paperwork? Under what conditions might my child lose financial aid?