

## The College Visit

- 1) Do your Research
  - a. Look for colleges with your academic interests, athletic interests. size; private or public; geographical area
  - b. Call and talk to Admissions before ever thinking about visiting
  - c. Not sure what type of school you're looking for? Visit schools in your area in your Junior year
  - d. Group Visit vs. Personal Visit
- 2) Make an appointment
  - a. At least 2 weeks in advance, one month in advance is preferable
  - b. Make sure you tell them if you want to spend the night, visit classes, meet with faculty, coaches or other special activities;
  - c. Do they require an interview? Audition? Athletic Tryout?
- 3) When to visit
  - a. During a weekday while classes are in session! Very important.
  - b. Fall if you can, if not Spring. Avoid Summer visits.
  - c. Arrange visits at schools in the same area around the same time. Avoid visiting more than one school in a day.
- 4) What to visit
  - a. Go where the action happens; Student Union, Cafeteria, Athletic facilities
  - b. Sit in on a class!
  - c. Look at the school services; health center, career center, tutoring services
  - d. Get off the beaten path; attend some student activities
  - e. See the town
- 5) What to ask
  - a. Be like a reporter, take notes. You will take in a lot of information and it will be hard to remember it all, especially if you visit more than one college in a day.
  - b. Ask in depth questions, you should already know the answers to basic things like admission requirements
  - c. Be Engaged!!
  - d. Talk to everyone you meet; students, faculty, etc. Always get a perspective different from your admission counselor
- 6) How to process the information
  - a. Intuition. You will usually know when a college feels right to you and when it doesn't. Trust your intuition.
  - b. Don't take away a negative feel of the campus simply because you didn't like your tour guide.
  - c. Every school has its flaws
  - d. Ultimately, this is your choice not your parents
- 7) Can't afford to visit?
  - a. Virtual tours
  - b. Call your admissions counselor frequently
  - c. Ask if you could talk with a faculty member and/or current student over the phone or via email