

21 Suggestions for Visiting Colleges

Suggestions for the Basic Visit (for any visit, even as early as 9th grade)

1. Learn about the school before you visit. Read guidebooks, the website, etc.
2. Try to visit when classes are in session.
3. Always contact the admissions office before you arrive. Attend info sessions and tours.
4. Talk to a few students. Ask them what they like and dislike about the school.
5. Pick up a copy of the student newspaper. What issues are affecting campus?
6. Eat lunch in the student center. Would you fit in at this school?
7. That day make notes of what you liked and didn't like about the school. Save these!

Suggestions for the Intermediate Visit

8. Before you go, make a list of questions to ask. Make sure you have answers before you leave.
9. Visit the dorms. Make sure to see the typical freshman room, not just the dorm on the tour.
10. Sit in on classes. The admissions office can suggest classes to visit.
11. Evaluate campus social life. What do students do for fun? Would you fit in here?
12. Tour the area surrounding campus. Could you get around without a car? Is it safe?
13. Wander the campus by yourself. Can you picture yourself spending four years there?
14. Visit the library, bookstore, study areas, computer labs, and campus hangouts.

Suggestions for the Advanced Visit (for more "serious" visits)

15. Bring multiple copies of your resume. You may want to schedule a formal interview.
16. Schedule a meeting with professors in departments of interest to you and arrange to speak to undergraduates in the same department or program you are considering.
17. Visit the career center. Learn about the resources available to help students get jobs or attend graduate school.
18. Plan an overnight visit and eat typical cafeteria food. The admissions office can help make arrangements.
19. Talk to as many students as you can. Ask about their major, what they would change about the school, and any advice they might give you.

For everyone

20. Dress nicely, but don't feel as if you must dress up. School clothes are usually appropriate.
21. Get a business card or write down the names of any professors/ school officials you meet and be sure to send them a thank you card when you get home.