

# Suggestion Sheet for College Visitation

## WHY SHOULD I VISIT A COLLEGE?

Guidance Counselors, College Representatives, School Catalogs, etc., can all be of great help in trying to choose a school. But none of these sources can tell you everything about a certain school. You can never be certain that you will be happy at a school until you start attending, and the nearest you can come to this is to visit the campus. By visiting you can get some indication of the general atmosphere on the campus, what the classes are like, what the students are like, and many other things that you can't get out of the school catalog.

## WHEN SHOULD I VISIT A SCHOOL THAT I AM INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

After you have narrowed your choice of schools down to two or three, it is time to start thinking about paying them a visit. Juniors and seniors are allowed two visits. There are definitely good times and bad times to visit a campus. When you are planning a visit, there are a number of things to keep in mind. First, the high school office must excuse you, second, a few weeks before you go to the school you will need to call the admissions office and schedule a date and time. Third, pick a time to visit that is a normal school day at the college. Visiting on special days such as homecoming, registration, or final exams can distort the picture you get of the campus.

## HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A CAMPUS VISIT?

1. As was mentioned above, be sure and let the office of admissions know that you are coming. The reason for doing this is because tours and talks with officials are then usually arranged and from these you get information that you cannot receive by just walking around the campus.
2. Look through the college catalog and read the sections that are very important, e.g. registration procedures, etc. **Do not go to the school knowing nothing about it!**
3. Make a list of the things that you definitely want to do and see when you get to the campus. Also it is a good idea to list any questions to which you need answers.
4. Dress appropriately! You'll be walking a lot, so wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.

## WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET THERE FOR THE VISIT?

1. You will have received a packet from the college with a map and information on where to park and what building to report to. Be sure to get there in time for your appointment. They will have everything scheduled back-to-back, so if you are late you may miss some things.
2. **If the school offers a guided tour of the campus, be sure to take it.** Even if you have been on the campus before these tours usually show you things that you have not seen before. Be sure to see the dorms, library, cafeteria, student union, and the classrooms of the subject area in which you think you will major. **Often it is possible to visit a class or two while they are in session. If this is possible, definitely do it.** This is a great way to see what the everyday activities are like.
3. If it is possible, ask to talk to one of the admissions officers. This is the best way to get the answers to questions not mentioned in the catalog.
4. Do not be afraid to ask questions that come to mind. **Remember, you should see a school before you definitely decide to attend.**

# CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

Make the most of your trip!

Here are some things you won't want to miss while visiting a college. Take a look at this list before planning a campus trip to make sure that you allow enough time to get a good sense of what the school – and college life – is really like.

- Take a campus tour
- Have an interview with the admissions officer – ask questions
- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office if there is one
- Pick up financial aid forms
- Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you
- Talk to coaches of sports in which you might participate
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like
- Ask students why they chose that college
- Ask students what they dislike about the college
- Ask students what they like about the college
- Ask students what they do on the weekends
- Read for a little while in the library to see what it is like
- Ask questions of interest to you (e.g. Do you have trouble finding books in the library? What buildings are open late if I need to stay and study? How “safe” is the college)
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour
- Try to spend the night in a dorm (some don't offer overnights, ask someone you know if you can stay with them one night.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus
- Imagine yourself attending this college for four years