

# Checklist and Questions for College Visits

A campus visit is highly recommended. It is an invaluable experience to help determine where God wants you to attend college. If possible, it is of worth to set up an individual visit, as well as a visit during the college's pre-determined College Visit Days (if they schedule special visit days). Also, develop a list of questions. There are some questions below to get you started. Also, use your College Visit Form questions (the form required for CCS), and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals (i.e. visiting the department of the major you are interested in, visiting coaches if you want to play sports, etc.). \*Some information taken from ACT.

## CHECKLIST FOR A COLLEGE VISIT

### BEFORE YOUR VISIT:

If you will be missing a CCS school day for your visit: At least one week in advance, get a College Visit Form. On the top page, have your teachers sign, you sign and then bring to the Guidance Office. The rest of the form needs to be filled out during your visit and turned in the day you return to school in order for the absence to be excused. \*College visits are considered excused absences IF you properly fill out and turn in the College Visit Form.

Call the college to set up a date to visit complete with appointments with an admission counselor, financial aid advisor, professors in your major, a meal in the dining facilities and classes you can sit in to observe.

If you are staying overnight, make sure the college provides accommodations for you and your parents. If not, you will need to make your own hotel reservations.

Get distance/driving directions and find out what time you need to arrive and your contact person.

Find out what you need to bring (i.e. transcripts, resume, portfolio, video taped performance (athletic or music), sleeping bag (if you are staying in the dorm, etc.).

Make a list of questions you want to ask - there is help below and on your College Visit Form.

Visit the college website. Learn about the college so you can talk intelligently with the people you meet.

### DURING YOUR VISIT:

Meet with an Admissions Officer.

- Verify admission requirements (tests, scores, GPA, etc.).
- Determine college costs (tuition, room, board, fees, books, etc.).
- Ask about financial aid and scholarship opportunities, as well as forms/applications required, deadlines, etc.
- Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- Attend a couple of classes to get an idea of typical class size, academic atmosphere, etc.
- Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- Identify career planning services and tutoring services for undergraduates.
- Tour the campus - check out the dorms, dining facilities, library, etc.
- Talk to students about the general academic environment and the amount of study necessary for success, out-of-class activities, etc.
- Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available, about campus life and if there are rules for social activities.
- Investigate transportation options, if needed.
- Drive around the town and see what is available - stores, entertainment, food, etc.
- Get proper names and addresses of the faculty/staff you meet with so you can send Thank-you notes after your visit.

AFTER YOUR VISIT:

- If you did not write down the answers to your questions during the visit, do this immediately upon leaving, before you forget.
- Make other notes about the visit - what you liked best, least, etc.
- Write down any questions you think of after you leave.
- Send thank you notes to the people you met with.

## QUESTIONS FOR A CAMPUS VISIT

### ADMISSIONS

1. What are the admission requirements?
2. Will my activities and school involvement be considered?
3. Is there an essay on the application?
4. Is there an early decision or early action plan?
5. Are personal interviews or letters of recommendation required?
6. Do certain majors have special admission requirements?

### ACADEMICS

1. How is a faculty advisor assigned to students?
2. When do you choose a major? How difficult is it to change majors? How many students do this on average? Can you have a double major? Is a minor required?
3. How many entering freshmen return for the sophomore year? How many graduate within four or five years?
4. What is the success of graduates within my major?
5. How big is the freshmen class? What is the average class size?
6. Do graduate students teach undergraduates or do professors teach classes?
7. Do the faculty maintain office hours? Do students have a faculty advisor?
8. What tutoring services are available?
9. Is there an Honors Program? How does a student get selected?

### STUDENT LIFE

1. What percentage of students live on campus? Must all freshmen live on campus?
2. How well are the resident halls supervised?
3. How many students are assigned to a room?

4. Are bathrooms public or private?
5. Are there co-ed dorms? By floor? Wing? How?
6. What is the visitation policy for the resident halls?
7. How are roommates assigned? May I request a specific roommate?
8. What services are available in the resident halls (laundry, etc.)?
9. Are all students allowed to have cars on campus? Is a parking permit required?

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. What is the approximate cost of one academic year? What does this amount include?
2. Do I HAVE to file the FAFSA form?
3. Will applying for financial aid have any impact on admission decisions?
4. How is financial aid awarded to students? Is it based on need or merit? How do I apply for financial aid? What is the ratio of loan money to gift aid?
5. Are all students' needs met completely? If not, how much of a student's need is met?
6. What scholarship opportunities are available? How do I apply for scholarships?
7. When do students learn about their financial aid package?
8. Do you have an installment plan? What about other financing options?
9. What employment opportunities are available? Do you have to receive financial aid in order to get a job on campus?

#### SAFETY ISSUES

1. Are there emergency phones located throughout the campus?
2. Are buildings, walkways and parking lots well lit?
3. Does the school provide escorts for students who are walking on campus?
4. Is access to dorms monitored using a card access system or other security system? Are dorm rooms equipped with quality locks on doors and windows?

5. Does the school enforce drinking, and weapon laws?

### FOOD AND MISC.

1. Do you have your own food service, a caterer or local fast food?

2. Must I purchase a meal ticket? How many meals per week?

4. What is nearby the campus (restaurants, fast food, malls, grocery stores, banks, entertainment, etc.)? How close are these things to the campus?

5. What differentiates your school from other schools?

6. What is the philosophy, mission statement, purpose, Biblical stance, etc., of the college?

7. What kind of personal qualities do students tend to have here (i.e. conservative/liberal, religious backgrounds, etc.)?

### **QUICK TIPS FOR ATTENDING A COLLEGE FAIR**

(from Counselors Guide Outlook)

1. Be prepared with questions such as: "Tell me about \_\_\_\_ College?", "What makes your school unique?", "What is your school known for?", "What do you like best / worst about your school?"

2. Do your 'homework' before the event - identify colleges that might meet your requirements

3. Print labels with your name, address, high school and year of graduation. This will save time in filing out information cards

4. Make use of fair resources - attend info sessions, meet with financial aid advisors, etc. Ask questions!

5. Take notes - don't think you will remember everything.

6. Resist the temptation to "cruise" the fair, picking up materials to read at home. They will most likely become trash if you do it this way. Go with purpose expecting to accomplish things.

7. Ask open-ended questions that require more than a 'yes' or 'no' response.

8. Get the name and contact information of the people you meet.

9. Consider how representatives interact with you - are they friendly? Do they know their school?, etc.

10. Pace yourself and have fun!

