

## 12- Preparing for a College Visit/College Fair

Pre-trip: One 20- min. session  
Post-trip: One 20- min. session

**Objectives:** The students will be able to:

- Prepare for a College Campus Visit
- Evaluate a College Campus Visit

**Materials:** handouts:

- *Hints for a Campus Visit*
- *Questions Students Should Ask*
- *Campus Visit Notes*
- *Questions to Ask at College Fairs*

**Activities:**

- **Warm-up:** Ask the students if they have visited a college campus. Have several students share briefly- school name, purpose for visit, whether they went on a tour, if so, what kinds of things did they see, etc., and general impressions. Discuss the importance of visiting college campuses to learn first-hand- to visit the campus itself and to observe your reactions to the campus, the people, and the general atmosphere of the college.
1. Before the Visit: Distribute and discuss with student the *Hints for a Campus Visit*. Highlight key points.
  2. During the Visit: Discuss the *Questions Students Should Ask While Visiting Campuses*.
  3. After the Visit: Instruct students to take a few minutes immediately following the visit to jot down responses on the Campus Visit Notes form. This will help students to remember impressions later of each college visited.
  4. \* College Fair visit: Survey the class to see if any students have been to a College Fair. Ask a student to explain the format of the College Fair. Distribute *Questions to Ask at College Fairs* and discuss with students.

**Follow-up:**

- Assist students with using their impressions from campus visits to make comparisons among colleges.

## **Hints for a Campus Visit**

A campus visit is highly recommended. Before you visit the campus, consider some of the options below. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- ⇒ Meet with an admissions officer.
- ⇒ Verify admission requirements (tests and high school preparation).
- ⇒ Discuss your chances for success.
- ⇒ Obtain a school calendar and catalog, if you don't already have them.
- ⇒ Determine college costs.
- ⇒ Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- ⇒ Meet with faculty in the academic area of interest to you.
- ⇒ Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- ⇒ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, academic atmosphere.
- ⇒ Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ⇒ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ⇒ Tour the campus. (Be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, etc.).
- ⇒ Talk to students about the general academic environment and the study commitment necessary for success.
- ⇒ Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available.
- ⇒ Inquire about campus life and social activities.
- ⇒ Investigate transportation options.

## **Questions Students Should Ask While Visiting Campuses**

*The following questions are recommended by the undergraduate admissions office of Harvard University.*

### **I. ACADEMICS**

- ⇒ What percentage of freshmen return for sophomore year?
- ⇒ Are graduate students used for instructing undergraduates? How?
- ⇒ What type of research or publishing is going on in the departments I'm interested in?
- ⇒ What sort of opportunities is there for students to pursue their own research and to assist faculty members in their research?
- ⇒ What are the libraries like?
- ⇒ Does the school have a liberal arts, technical, or pre-professional focus?

### **II. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- ⇒ What sort of extra-curricular activities are offered? What level of competition?
- ⇒ Are there cultural, political or social organizations for students?
- ⇒ What types of facilities are available for drama, music and athletics?

### **III. SUPPORT SERVICES**

- ⇒ What types of career advising and support services are offered?
- ⇒ What companies or agencies recruit on campus?
- ⇒ What types of jobs or graduate and professional schools do most students enter upon graduation?
- ⇒ What percentage of students applying to graduate and professional schools are admitted?
- ⇒ Does the school assist students in finding summer jobs? Are counseling services provided?
- ⇒ Are there support services for minority students? Why or why not?

### **IV. FINANCIAL AID**

- ⇒ Is all financial aid need-based?
- ⇒ Is full need met? How is it met?
- ⇒ Is aid guaranteed for four years? At the same financial level?
- ⇒ Does the school offer merit scholarships? Are they awarded depending on maintaining a particular grade point average while in college?
- ⇒ What percentage of students receives financial aid?
- ⇒ What percentage of students work?



## QUESTIONS TO ASK AT COLLEGE FAIRS

1. What are your admissions requirements?
2. Is the ACT/SAT required?
3. Is the ACT accepted in place of the SAT?
4. How can I best prepare to be accepted at your institution?
5. Is an admissions interview required?
6. Do you have an open house schedule with you?
7. How much is tuition? Room and Board?
8. Does the school offer other financial aid to students that aren't eligible for federal funds?
9. Does the financial aid office require it's own financial aid application in addition to the FAFSA?
10. Is on-campus housing mandatory for out-of-state students?
11. Are there any support services offered for students?  
**Peer counseling? Tutoring? Job placement? Career development?**
12. What percent of your graduates find employment in their major field of study?
13. What is the student to teacher ratio?
14. Is there a medical facility on the campus?
15. Can freshman have cars on campus?

## Campus Visit Notes

Name of College \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Visit \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Weather \_\_\_\_\_ (sunny,  
cold, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_ Suburban \_\_\_\_\_ Urban (check one)

Names of people you spoke to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate the attractiveness of the campus?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the technology available to students on campus?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the sports and recreational facilities available on campus?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the quality of food service facilities?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the quality of the residence halls?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the quality of the academic buildings?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

How would you rate the quality of the library?

*Excellent      Good      Fair      Poor*

**Overall Impressions:**

What did you like best?

What did you like least?

**Other things you want to remember about this college:**

**Overall assessment of how well this college fits you:**

*Extremely Well      Very Well      Somewhat Well      Not Very Well*