



## College Visits Tip Sheet

When you visit a college, you have an opportunity to explore whether or not that particular school will be a good match for you. Enjoy your visit, but be sure to look carefully, listen thoughtfully, and ask a lot of questions. Sit in on a class or two. Keep a written journal of your impressions so that you will be able to refer to it once you hear from colleges and need to make a decision.

- Talk with students, professors, admissions office staff.
- Read a copy of the student newspaper.
- Eat a meal in one of the dining halls.
- See a typical freshman dorm room.
- Check out the bulletin boards and campus kiosks.
- Find out what arts events are held on campus.
- Visit the recreation center, gymnasium, performing arts center.
- Visit the library. See what their holdings are like in an area you might major in.

Here are some questions to ask:

- \*Why did you choose this college?
- \*Why do you like teaching here?
- \*What do students think is the best thing about being here?
- \*What type of student seems happiest here?
- \*What are the most popular majors?
- \*What is the strongest academic department?
- \*What are the most popular extracurricular activities?
- \*What are the opportunities for extracurricular participation?
- \*Are students involved in politics, and if so, how?
- \*What are some student and school traditions?
- \*What role do fraternities and sororities play on campus?
- \*What happens here on weekends? Do students stay on campus?
- \*What is there to do away from campus?
- \*How would I get home for a weekend or vacation?
- \*Are students allowed to have cars on campus, and if so, what is the parking situation like?
- \*How safe is the campus? Can I walk through campus alone at night?
- \*Are students active in the community off-campus?

- \*Do students have an academic advisor? If yes, how well do student and advisor get to know each other?
- \*How active is the college in helping with career planning and job placement?
- \*How well do students get to know professors? Can I expect to get to know one or two well enough to ask for a recommendation to graduate school or for a job?
- \*How often do students meet individually with professors?
- \*What percent of the faculty is adjunct or part-time?
- \*How are roommates chosen?
- \*Are single rooms available?
- \*Are there special interest dorms/floors?
- \*Are the dorms/floors single sex or coed?
- \*Are the bathrooms single sex or coed?
- \*Is gender-neutral housing available?
- \*On what factors do you base admissions?
- \*What is a typical freshman-year course load?
- \*What is the size of a typical freshman class?
- \*Are most classes conducted in a lecture or discussion format?
- \*In a typical course, how many exams and papers will be expected?
- \*Who teaches/grades introductory courses, professors or graduate students?
- \*How academically competitive is the school?
- \*How geographically/ethnically/religiously/socio-economically diverse is the student population?
- \*What kind of student academic support services are offered? (Writing Lab, tutoring, etc.?)
- \*What do students do after graduation? Get a job? Go to graduate school?
- \*When do I have to declare a major?
- \*Are there required courses? A core curriculum? Distribution requirements?
- \*How many courses are required for the major in my chosen field?
- \*What opportunities are there to study abroad?
- \*What opportunities are there to do career internships?
- \*What opportunities are there to do research or independent study projects?