

Making the most out of your college visit

Checklist:

- ◇ **Research** the basics of the institution prior to your visit. **BE REALISTIC WHEN IT COMES TO THE TUITION AND HOUSING COSTS.**
- ◇ During your research **write down the specific questions** you need to ask.
- ◇ **Arrive early** to get oriented and to take care of any paperwork.
- ◇ **Make time to explore on your own** either before or after the formal tour.
- ◇ **Interact with and ask questions** of current students (including your tour guide and employees).
- ◇ **Request the business cards** of individuals with whom you connect with for easy follow-up.
- ◇ **Pick up the student newspaper, tune in to the campus radio station and look at bulletin boards to get a feel for the campus culture.**
- ◇ Allow time to **visit the surrounding neighborhoods.**
- ◇ **Write down your impressions immediately**, especially if you plan to tour multiple schools.
- ◇ **Don't visit more than two colleges in a single day.**
- ◇ **Parents:** Listen to your child's gut instincts about a particular institution. He or she will be the one spending four years there.

Okay.....you've done the research, attended College Fairs, talked to various representatives and maybe even took a virtual tour. Now it's time to make some decisions. Where am I going to apply? What is the best choice for me if I get accepted to multiple schools? Who has the best campus life for my lifestyle? Where will I get the best value, best food, best opportunities, best scholarships? How about Greek life or community involvement? Financial Aid?

So many decisions to make.

*Nothing beats an actual **in-person college visit** to get the information you need to make wise decisions.*

- ⇒ Remember to **bring your list of questions** that you wrote down when you did your research (hint:... haven't done the research yet? - DO IT NOW!)
- ⇒ Take a **guided campus tour**. They are probably between 45 and 90 minutes long, but well worth the information you will receive. (traditions, history, culture, classroom visits) *Make sure to reserve some time to explore on your own.*
- ⇒ Ask current students "Why did you choose to enroll here?" "Do you have any tips for an incoming freshman?" "Are you happy here?"
- ⇒ If you have already been accepted, visit the financial aid office to speak with them personally about questions you may have or any lingering details regarding your financial aid package.
- ⇒ Meet with individual professors in your major if you have chosen one. Ask about research projects, internships, classroom expectations or current trends.
- ⇒ Check out the library, cafeteria, athletic fields, and computer labs.
- ⇒ Ask yourself, "Can I spend 4 years here?"

