

Campus Visit Checklist

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist>

<https://www.cappex.com/media/collegeVisitChecklist.pdf>

How to Make the Most of Your Trip

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

When planning your campus visits, SLOW DOWN. Scheduling more than two colleges in a day means that with drive-time, you may be cutting your visits at each college short. Campus tours can take up to 2 hours, and sometimes, the best information comes from unexpected experiences. Give yourself time to absorb the feeling of being on campus. You may not know what you like at first, but after a few visits, you may start to understand what you like and can modify your effort accordingly.

Gather Information

Find out what you need to do to apply and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Interview with an admission officer (if the college offers interviews).
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Listen to a few minutes of a class that you walk by. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Spend a few minutes in the library and classroom buildings watching student-faculty interactions.

Explore the Campus

Get a feel for student life and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk to current students about life on campus and the college.
- Eat a meal in the dining room.
- Visit the student center.
- Visit the learning center, fitness center, career center, bookstore and other campus facilities.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.

Check Out Campus Media

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers and literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.

Questions to Ask During Your Visit

Here are some questions you may want to ask your tour guide or students you meet on campus:

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?

Adapted from Campus Visits and College Interviews by Zola Dincin Schneider.