

Studyforth

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO VISITING A COLLEGE

Sam Burian
www.studyforth.com

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR VISITING

No amount of research gives you the impression that a school visit gives you. Being on campus is the only way to make sure that a school is a good fit.

But it's often difficult to visit every college you're applying to.

The Solution

- Get the most out of each visit.
- Schedule multiple visits per trip.
- Take an online tour or schedule a telephone interview with a current student or alum if you can't visit.

Apply to schools without visiting and visit after being accepted. Consider noting in your application why you did not choose to visit and why that school is still a top choice.



BEST TIME TO VISIT?

When school is in session. With students around, you'll get a feel for what the campus is really like.

WHAT TO DO DURING A VISIT



INTERVIEW

This will show interest and give you a better feel for the school. Be sure to bring questions.

Research before the interview and ask questions that show you've done research rather than ones easily answered by an internet search.

Questions

Example

Don't ask: Do you offer many internships?

Ask: I noticed that you host a job fair every February. Are there opportunities for Freshmen to take advantage of these jobs/internships and how competitive are they?

Sample Questions

- How do you help with life after college, such as career placement?
- **If you had to describe the student body in one word, what would it be?**
- What makes college X unique/
What is college X's focus?
- **What is your (least) favorite thing about college X?**
- What advice would you give to an incoming freshman?
- **Do you feel that study abroad is an important college experience?**



SPEAKING OF QUESTIONS...

Ask questions throughout your visit.

Nothing is off limits avoid simple questions that can be easily found online (ex. What is the student faculty ratio?).

If you think of something, ask now or you'll regret it later on.

What are the students like? (interesting? pretentious?)
Would you get along with them?

Talk to professors from departments that you are interested in.



TAKE A TOUR

The admissions office will offer a tour, but it's also good to go off-road and guide yourself for a bit.

This way, you'll see the whole campus, not just what they want you to see

- Explore places that are important to you.
- Ask students on the campus what they like or dislike about the school.
- Check out the town or surrounding area



GO TO INFO SESSIONS:

They'll tell you a lot about the school in a short amount of time.



SIT IN ON A CLASS:

If it's not in your schedule, feel free to ask. It shouldn't take more than an hour.



EAT IN THE CAF:

If you're getting a meal plan, it's a good idea to try the school's food.



STAY OVERNIGHT:

It's best to do this when you're seriously considering a school and not early on in the process



KEEP AN OPEN MIND

Try not to make any assumptions - you never know what you'll find in a school.

Give things some time - don't let your first impression dominate your opinion of the school



DO IT ALL

You may not be able to come back for a while so do as much as you can.

If you skip something, you'll definitely regret it later.



CONTINUALLY ASK YOURSELF...

"Can I see myself here?" "Can I thrive at this school?"

Does it fulfill your dream school requirements?



RE-VISIT AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Visiting as an accepted student makes you see the campus from a completely different point of view.



TAKING NOTES

An important part of any college visit is recording it. Without any notes, you'll quickly forget important parts of the visit.

It isn't essential to take detailed notes. Although they are very effective, they are also time consuming.

Our Quick Method

Simply write down one word answers (or a short sentence) to each of these questions:

- One reason you liked the school?
- One reason you disliked the school?
- What makes the school unique?
- What are the students like?
- What are the professors like?
- How are the facilities & Dorms?
- How is the food?
- What's your feeling of the school?

Copy and paste these questions into a spreadsheet to keep all your responses in one place.



RED HERRINGS

Although you may not think of them during the visit, you should always be able to come up with reasons for liking/disliking a school.



SUMMARY

Get the most out of each visit by:

INTERVIEWING

ASKING QUESTIONS

MAKING YOUR OWN TOUR

SITTING IN ON CLASSES

STAYING OVERNIGHT

RE-VISITING AFTER ADMISSION



You are now an expert at visiting colleges.

Get going!

Find more study advice at
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