

# VISITING THE COLLEGE

In order for college visit days to be excused, seniors must fill out a COLLEGE VISIT FORM prior to making the visit. The visit can be made through the counseling office, or you may make it yourself. After the absence, the student must provide proof of college visit. This is done by providing information of some kind that was gathered during the visit. Please provide this information to Ms. Franz so that the college visit can be marked “excused.” Seniors are allowed two excused college visit days per year. Juniors are allowed one excused college visit day per year.

Visiting prospective colleges can be a big help in selecting the right school. Its value is in providing a fist-hand impression for you and your family about people, programs, and facilities. Your presence on the campus and your readiness to talk about yourself and your college plans are indications of your serious interest in the college. Seeking and exchanging information with college officials is all part of the process in the campus visit.

## TIPS FOR COLLEGE VISITS

- Discuss your initial ideas about college with your family and counselor.
- Make a list of prospective colleges and write them down. Be specific concerning your interests.
- Contact colleges you plan to visit well in advance. Make appointments by calling the college and asking for admissions or student affairs.
- Evaluate your record so you are able to answer general questions about your academic performance in high school and your score on the ACT.
- Research the colleges you plan to visit. Get on-line and look at their web site.
- Take an unofficial copy of your transcript. Request a copy from the Counseling Center a few days prior to the visit.
- If possible, arrive on campus in the afternoon and take a late afternoon guided tour.  
Plan on staying for dinner and spend the night in the dorm. Include a social, cultural, athletic or special event in your visit and attend some classes the next morning. You may also want to arrange to speak to faculty member or coaches in the field or sport of interest.
- Be prompt for tours and appointments.
- Pick up an application form, scholarship information and a campus map.
- Don’t hesitate to discuss finances and ask about scholarship, loan and work opportunities.
- Campus musts to see: the library, academic facilities, and dorms. It is important to get some idea about the kind of people you will live and work with on campus.
- Visit the neighborhood where the campus is located. Look for transportation facilities.

- Parents are always welcome on college campuses. Colleges that require an interview for admission will want to do this with the student only. Parents may be offered the opportunity to ask questions after the interview.
- Remember the sunshine factor: a beautiful sunny day can make the campus seem terrific; a rainy day can dampen your interest. Try not to let the weather affect your judgment.
- Campus tour guides are not all alike. Some are lively, interesting students who are reliable spokespersons for the school while others may not be as well versed or informed. Don't judge a school solely by the one student tour guide. Meet many other students to get a true picture.
- Check to see which colleges require and which only recommend an interview. While on campus, try to schedule the interview. The interview is primarily for you to learn about the college and what life would be like for you as a student on campus.
- Read the catalog or visit the web site BEFORE you interview or visit the school.
- Dress comfortably for the visit and PROFESSIONALLY for the interview.
- Know yourself. Going into an interview, it is essential that you have evaluated your personality, interests, abilities, skills and values.
- Ask about your chances for admission; this is why it is important to bring a copy of your high school transcript and ACT test score. Most admission officers will be able to give you some idea of your chances of being admitted, but don't expect a definite answer. Usually that can only come later when the college has more complete information about you and its overall admissions competition for that particular year.
- Remember: the interview can have a positive effect on your admission, rarely a negative one.
- After your visit, make some notes on your reactions to the college. They may be helpful later when you are trying to remember and evaluate.
- If questions come up after the visit, don't hesitate to contact the people that you have met.
- If you are definitely interested in the college, follow through by filing your formal application as soon as possible. If you are not interested, don't consider your visit a waste of time. Chalk it up as a learning experience.
- Send thank-you notes to people with whom you had appointments.