

# CAMPUS VISIT CHECKLIST

Make the most of your time while visiting the colleges and universities that interest you. Use this list during your time on each campus to get a sense of what the school—and the life of its students—is really like.

## IMPORTANT TIPS:

- Call ahead.** To make sure you get to see everything you need to, don't forget to call the university ahead of time and schedule your visit. Make sure that you have the opportunity to get the most up-to-date and accurate information about admissions, financial aid, and scholarships while you're on campus.
- Try to visit on a weekday.** On weekends and holidays it may be difficult to do certain activities. For example, if you want to sit in on a class, you'll need to visit during the school week and coordinate with the college or department beforehand.

## TO GET THE OFFICIAL SIDE OF THINGS:

- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts. Pick up financial aid and other forms you might need during this time. **Ask lots of questions:**

• What's the typical class size for freshmen? For upperclassmen?

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• What are the university's strengths in the fields of study that interest you?

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• What housing options are available to freshmen?

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• What opportunities are there to conduct research with faculty? To do internships? To study abroad?

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- Take a campus tour.
- Enquire about sitting in on a class in a subject that interests you.
- Talk to a professor (or two) in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you, if they are available.
- Try to talk to a student or counselor in the career center.

This list compiled by:



*World Class. Face to Face.*

## INVESTIGATE ON YOUR OWN:

- Wander around the campus by yourself.
- Read the student newspaper—even the ads. Also, try to find other student publications—department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews—to peruse.
- Scan bulletin boards in the student union and/or in the academic departments you are interested in to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- Eat in a campus dining center.
- Talk to current students for their thoughts on topics like:

• Why he/she chose this university.

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• What he/she likes and dislikes about the university.

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• What the professors and courses have been like for him/her.

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• What outstanding professors or courses they might recommend, if they are studying an area that interests you.

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• What resources there are to connect you with others who share your interests.

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• How he/she feels about the surrounding neighborhood in all four directions.

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• How he/she feels walking around the campus at night.

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• What activities there are on the campus on weekends.

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• How the student turnout and spirit is at sporting events.

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• Whether freshmen can have cars and if they are really necessary.

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• Whether or not they brought a computer with them from home and if the school has enough student technology labs to get by without one.

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Search for your favorite book in the library. Read for a little while in the library to see what the study atmosphere is like.

Browse in the college bookstore.

Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Listen to the college's radio station and watch the student TV station, if there is one.

Try to see a residence hall that you didn't see on the tour.

Surf the Web in one of the student technology labs. If you haven't spent a lot of time on the university's Web site, now may be a good time to do so.

**Perhaps most importantly, imagine yourself attending this university for four years. Does the thought bring a smile to your face?**