

# The Campus Visit

## Preparing for the College Visit

- Prior to the visit, review the college website and arrive on campus with a general knowledge about the institution. College admission representatives want to know that students have thoroughly reviewed the college as it pertains to their interest areas.
- If possible, try to visit the campus on a day when the college is in session, but HHS is not (i.e. the first two days of Thanksgiving week, Staff Development days, possibly Spring Break). That way, you observe the campus as it really functions and you don't miss class.
- HHS allows two college visits per year to be "excused" for juniors and seniors. You must bring a note from the college (on official college letterhead) including the date you attended to the Attendance Office upon your return.
- Call or email at least two weeks in advance to make an appointment with the College Admissions Office. Some colleges will send you a confirmation of your visit along with a map and directions to the campus. It is a good idea to get confirmation.
- Dress appropriately. This indicates a serious interest in the college. You should look clean and well-groomed. First impressions are very important.
- Options for college visits: meeting with a college admissions counselor, campus tour, overnight stay in a residence hall, class visit, informal time with current students, faculty appointment(s), appointment with a coach, appointment with career services, meeting with student affairs, visit with housing and dining, eating in the dining hall, meeting with financial services, library tour, city tour.

## Things to Consider/Ask

### General

- Location – Distance from home. Are you comfortable traveling between campus and home?
- Size – Enrollment of student body, physical size of campus. Are you comfortable in the surroundings and getting around campus?
- Environment – School setting (urban, rural), co-ed or single sex dorms, religious affiliation, student organizations, importance of fraternity/sorority element
- Admission Requirements – Deadlines, tests required, average test scores, GPA, rank, notification of admission, types of admission plans
- Academics – Major area of interest and how it is supported on campus, accreditation status, student to faculty ratio, typical class size, Honors options
- College Expenses – Tuition, room and board AND fees, estimated total budget, application fee and deposits
- Financial Aid – Deadlines and required forms, % of students receiving INSTITUTIONAL aid, scholarships
- Housing – Residential requirements, meal plans, rules associated with each residence hall facility
- Activities – Clubs, organizations, Greek life, athletics/intramurals, ability to start your own organization

## Social Issues

- What are the living arrangements in dorms or fraternity/sorority houses? What options are there for choosing/changing roommates? Is off-campus housing available at reasonable rates? May I live off campus as a freshman?
- What % of students participates in Greek life and what % live in Greek housing? What is the college's attitude toward Greek organizations?
- What is the social climate for students who are not participants in Greek life?
- What activities are available for students on weekends?
- How active are the clubs/organizations on campus and how many are offered?
- What activities, such as concerts and speakers, does the college sponsor? How frequently are these activities available to students?
- How much funding is the Student Association provided to host concerts, speakers, and other major events on campus? How much control do the students have in this process? How active is the student body in the judicial process and effecting policy on campus?
- What intramural and recreational sports programs are available on campus? How competitive is the program and how are the facilities?
- What about campus security? Is a service available to escort/transport students after dark? What is the visit policy in the residence halls?
- What is the makeup of the student body in terms of geographical origin, and what are their academic interests? What are the most popular majors?
- What is the religious makeup of the campus and are there facilities for various religious groups? If the college is church-affiliated, do students of different faiths feel welcome?
- What is the ratio of males to females? What about the acceptance of alternative lifestyles?

## Academic Concerns

- What departments are outstanding, average, weak? What special research programs exist? How early can you get involved in a research project?
- What options exist for dual majors? Can you design your own academic area of study with the assistance of faculty?
- What is the interdisciplinary attitude among the various departments and colleges on campus?
- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- Are classes large or small? How many lecture courses may you take? In classes with large enrollments, are there smaller sections?
- How can faculty members be accessed outside of class time? How diverse is the faculty? Does the faculty represent diverse college affiliations from different geographical areas?
- How focused are the professors on research versus teaching?
- What is the grading system and is it consistent throughout the university setting?
- Are course requirements (i.e. 2 papers and 2 exams) consistent or does it vary?
- Are introductory courses taught by professors or graduate assistants? How are professors for freshman courses selected?
- What is the AP credit policy?
- What is the quality of faculty advising? Tutorial services?
- What services are available for students with learning disabilities?
- What services are provided through the career counseling and placement office?
- Are opportunities available for students who wish to study abroad?

## Facilities

- What health care facilities exist on campus? Off campus?
- Does the library have most of the research materials you will need in your field? What about internet access? Wireless?
- Will the bookstore have the books and supplies needed for all classes?
- How is the parking on campus? Will you need a car? Can freshmen have cars on campus?
- Is the technology in the labs up to date? Are art studios available? What are the theater/music facilities like?
- Can students use the athletic facilities? Does the school have a swimming pool, tennis/racquetball courts, track, and workout facilities?
- What commercial/retail shops are available and how accessible are they for students?