

PARENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE TOURS

COLLEGE TOUR CHECKLIST

Visiting a college campus can help your student get a better feel for what life is like at college. Because there is a lot to consider, it can be overwhelming. Your student may not be thinking about some of the critical questions that will help him/her make their decision. Use this guide to help compare colleges with your student and decide which is the best fit for him/her. Remember this is your student's visit and ultimately his/her decision.

BEFORE YOUR TOUR

- Browse the school's website, campus blogs, and social media pages.
- Prepare any questions you have ahead of time.
- Chat with your student about what he/she wants in a school and any questions he/she has in advance.

DURING YOUR TOUR

- Take pictures to remember what things look like and to jog your memory as you are comparing schools later.
- Chat with someone in the admissions office.
- Chat with someone in the financial aid office.
- Visit the career center.
- Get the names and business cards of people you meet, so you can contact them later if you have questions.
- Walk or drive around the surrounding neighborhood/off-campus housing.
- Take notes!

AFTER YOUR TOUR

- Sit down with your student and review notes.
- Reach out to the people you spoke with on the tour with any follow-up questions.
- Chat with your student about his/her financial plan.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR TOUR

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are your housing policies?
- What should students bring with them to college?
- Do most students use Apple, PC products, or a mixture?
- Are there any tutoring opportunities?
- Are there any grocery shopping options both on and off campus?
- How do students get around campus (cars, bikes, walking, mopeds, etc.)?
- What is parking like on campus?
- What percentage of the student population lives on campus?
- Are professors accessible outside of classroom hours?
- In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?
- Are there visit days for parents?
- Do you encourage community service?
- Are there opportunities for independent study?

ASK ADMISSIONS

- What is the student retention rate?
- How diverse is the campus?
- Are there early admissions/early action programs?
- Are there honors courses?
- How do AP credits transfer?
- Do you recognize credit transfers?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- What information do you require besides the FAFSA?
- Are there scholarship opportunities?
- Are there other financial aid programs?
- Are tuition rates fixed?

ASK THE CAREER CENTER

- How do students pursue internship opportunities?
- Are there on-campus employment opportunities?
- What percentage of students get jobs right out of school?
- Are there career fairs?
- How do you help students prepare for employment after graduation?