



Oregon Private College Week

Top 10 Tips to Get the Most Out of OPCW

1. Plan ahead.

All Oregon Private College Week host institutions are located in the beautiful Willamette Valley within 100 miles of each other, at the most. Be sure to:

- A. Map out the colleges you plan to visit so you can use your time efficiently and enjoy stress-free travel from institution to institution.
- B. Build-in some time in your schedule enjoy Oregon's bounty while you're here.
- C. Keep your schedule flexible enough to accommodate spontaneous adventures. You may, for example, decide you want to add a college to your list or schedule a longer visit at a campus so you can meet with a faculty member or current student.

2. Register in advance.

Make sure OPCW event organizers know which sessions you want to attend by registering in advance. Organizers will make sure there is room for you on the tours and in the presentations. Please [register in advance](#) so the college leaders know you're coming and can plan accordingly.

3. Bring a family member or friend.

Choosing the right college for you means looking at all aspects of the institution and comparing it to your needs. Having a parent, sibling, or friend there to help you observe and hear more than one perspective will help your final analysis.

4. Take advantage of everything the college offers.

Stay for the whole presentation. Go on the campus tour. Ask questions when you cross paths with current students, faculty, and staff. Check out different dorms. Visit the bookstore. Look at the classrooms and laboratory spaces. Soak-up all the opportunities you have to "get to know" each college.

5. Come prepared, take notes, and snap photos.

It is easy to get confused or forget an important detail when you visit several different colleges in a short amount of time. Come prepared with one or two thoughtful questions to ask at every college you visit. Jot down the answers to your questions and write down your key takeaways from each visit. Take photos to help you remember what you liked the most (and maybe even least!) about each campus.



6. Look at student work.

Want to get an idea of the type and quality of work you would be able to produce if you enroll at the college? Flip-through the school newspaper, visit the student art exhibit, look at library displays, etc.

7. Eat the food, drink the coffee.

Not only should you look at all the different dining locations, consider grabbing a bite to eat and/or a cup of coffee while you're on-campus. Be sure to ask about meal plan and payment options as well. This will help you get a sense of whether or not the meal services available on-campus meet your needs.

8. Check out the surrounding area.

Yes, as a college student, you'll be busy attending classes, studying, and participating in campus life, but you'll also explore and be a member of the community in which your school is located. Find out what's around campus. Look for walking/running paths, restaurants, and grocery stores nearby. Scope-out the public transportation options. Drive around the neighborhood and get a feel for the people, business, and places.

9. Know the difference between sticker price and net price.

A college's sticker price is the tuition amount advertised by the college. A college's net price is the tuition amount advertised by the college, minus the total financial aid, scholarships, and grants awarded. Also, consider that Oregon private college students tend to graduate on-time (in 4 years) as opposed to many of Oregon's public university students, who take an average of 6 years to graduate. The two extra years it can take students to graduate from Oregon's public universities equates to additional tuition costs and lost earnings.

10. Make sure the college knows your name.

You should definitely introduce yourself to at least one admissions person, but you should also make sure that someone records that you visited the campus. This helps demonstrate your interest in the college and helps ensure you will receive any "perks" of visiting the campus, such as an application fee waiver or a college merch item.

