



## **PREPARING FOR A COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT**

(From the June Newsletter at CollegeBoard.com for Students)

### **Know Before You Go**

It may be tempting to just yell "road trip!" and head out to campuses, but you'll get more out of your visits if you plan ahead.

### **Research the College**

It's important to know something about the college before you arrive on its campus, especially if you have an interview scheduled.

- Review the view books, course catalogs, and any other materials the college sends to prospective students.
- Spend some time surfing their website.
- Talk to currently enrolled students or alumni about their college. Some college websites let you contact them online, or you can get their contact information from the admissions office.

### **Scheduling your trip**

Pick a time that's convenient to you, but try to go when classes are in session. That way, you can sit in on a lecture or stay in a dorm overnight. You'll only get a true feel for the campus if you're there on a day when classes are in full swing.

Schedule your time on campus; too, to make sure you'll have time for everything you want to do:

- Find out how often college tours run, and if you have to sign up in advance.
- Be sure to get a map of the school. You don't want to spend half your day trying to park or find the admissions office.
- If an interview is suggested, make an appointment. Also, consider meeting with the financial aid officer.
- If you're curious about a club, program, or a sport, arrange to attend a practice, rehearsal, or meeting.
- Ask yourself if you can imagine living and studying at that college for two or four years.



## Pack a camera and notebook

Was it X College or Y University that had that excellent exercise equipment in the gym? Where did I talk to that cool psychology professor? You think you'll remember everything, but you'll be surprised how colleges start to merge after you've seen a few.

### What's important to you?

Make a list of what college characteristics are most important to you, so you know what to evaluate. Do you feel overwhelmed in a large lecture hall? Check out the class size. Do you have your heart set on joining a sorority or a fraternity? See what the Greek system is like on campus. Is there a particular major that you want to pursue? Talk to current students or professors in that department.

Develop a list of your preferences. Take this list to the schools that you plan to visit, and compare them when you get back home.

For more information check out the complete guide to Campus Visits and College Interviews available at the online store at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

## Create Your Resume

With a completed resume you'll find you have much of the information you need to fill out college applications. Writing your resume can also help you think of experiences to use as the basis of your application essays. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- *List your achievements. Include you high school course list and any academic achievements, such as awards or honors. Include any academic or other competitions you've entered.*
- *Don't be shy. Brainstorm with friends and family to see if you can discover achievements that you overlooked.*
- *Use action words. For example, "organized weekend softball game;" "volunteered at the local senior center;" "edited club newsletter."*
- *Include details. Describe what you've achieved with your hobbies and interests, rather than just the interests themselves.*