

Campus Visit Dos and Don'ts

DO'S

1. Do come to campus dressed appropriately. No need to wear your prom dress or a tux, but put some effort into your appearance. Looking nice will help you feel more confident, too.
2. Do research before you visit each school. Know a little about what that school's known for. Admissions people don't expect you to be an expert—that's why you're visiting—but it always makes a good impression if you know what that particular school has to offer.
3. Do come prepared with a written list of questions. An interview, tour or info session will be much more of a valuable experience for you if you're well prepared.
4. Do be sure to know why it is you're looking at that school and how it differs in your mind from similar institutions. For example, Hamilton and St. Lawrence might be similar on paper, but have lots of differences, too. Know why it is that you're interested in St. Lawrence in particular and make sure you're able to articulate why that school is a good match.
5. Do be sure to call if you're going to be late or if you have to cancel a visit.
6. When you call to make the visit appointment, ask if you have the opportunity to have an interview, tour the campus or meet with a professor or coach and do as many of those things as you can. You may not be back on that campus again before you apply, so it's important that you're able to get as much out of the visit as you can.
7. Do be confident—describe what you, in particular, would bring to that school if admitted. Just like you want to find out what distinguishes one college from another, the admissions staff will want to know what sets you apart from other applicants.
8. **DO VISIT! Campus visits are a great opportunity for both you and the college or university to get to know one another better.**

DON'TS

1. Don't be rude to your parents or siblings during any portion of the visit, even if they ask a lot of questions or embarrass you. You'd be surprised how many times interviewers and tour guides note kids being rude to their families.
2. Don't answer interview questions with "yes" or "no." Try to put a little thought into the question before you answer and give some detail with your answer.
3. Don't chew gum, eat or drink during the interview! It's really hard to understand what someone is saying when they're smacking on a wad of Juicy Fruit!
4. Don't forget to watch the interactions of people on campus—do the students look happy? Who sits with whom in the cafeteria? Are students and professors interacting?
5. Don't be too nervous—admissions people are human and they're looking forward to having a good conversation with you. Be confident and take advantage of the opportunity to tell them why you'd be a great person to have on their campus!

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

HOUSING

- 1) Possibility of doubling or tripling?
- 2) # (and %) of students living on campus?
- 3) Majority of students stay on campus on weekends?
- 4) Co-ed dorms? by Floor? by Wing?
- 5) Microwaves? Hot Pots? Irons? Refrigerators?
- 6) Laundry facilities?
- 7) Telephones in each room? Message units? Restrictions?
- 8) Policies regarding drinking, etc.?
- 9) Residential Assistants Opportunities? Soph., Jr. or Sr. Year?

MEAL PLAN

- 1) Different meal plans? Mandatory for Freshmen?
- 2) # Dining Rooms? Hours Open?

SECURITY

- 1) Is campus well lighted?
- 2) Courtesy vans? How often? How late? Operated by FT campus security staff or by students?

TRANSPORTATION

- 1) Bus lines available? How far away -can student walk to station?
- 2) Amtrak? How far away?
- 3) Cars on campus for Freshmen? Parking Permit Fee?
- 4) Local Mass Transportation?

WEATHER

- 1) Average temperatures during school year?
- 2) Average snowfall?

ACADEMICS

- 1) Semester vs. Trimester?
- 2) Avg. # Courses?
- 3) Avg. Size of Classes?
- 4) Courses taught by Professors vs. Teaching Assistants?
- 5) How often do students meet with their advisors?
- 6) Extra help and tutors available?
- 7) Computer facilities?

LIBRARY

- 1) # of volumes?
- 2) Hours open?
- 3) Consortium with other college library systems?

FOR COLLEGE VISITS

ATHLETICS

- 1) Division I, II, III or Independent?
- 2) School spirit -spectator sports?
- 3) Intramural sports participation?
- 4) Sports facilities? Pool, skating rink, racquetball courts, weight rooms, etc. for all students?

RECREATION

- 1) Student center activities?
- 2) On-campus plays, shows, concerts?
- 3) Off-campus facilities? How far away?
- 4) Distance from skiing, boating?

SHOPPING

- 1) Groceries?
- 2) Malls?

FRATERNITIES & SORORITIES

- 1) # of each?
- 2) On-campus? Off-campus houses?
- 3) % of student population join?

WORK STUDY & INTERNSHIPS

- 1) On-campus work study jobs? # Hours/week? Hourly pay rate?
- 2) Internships in campus offices?
- 3) Internships available in local companies? Who is eligible? # weeks long?
- 4) Career Placement Office on-campus? Effectiveness?

STUDY ABROAD

- 1) Availability? What countries & universities?
- 2) Juniors & Seniors only?
- 3) One semester or longer?

RELIGIOUS

- 1) Opportunity to attend services on-campus? Off-campus? How far?
- 2) Mandatory courses or services?

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

- 1) Students encouraged to join?
- 2) How many on-campus?

OTHER THINGS TO MAKE NOTES ABOUT:

- 1) General campus layout and attitude of present students.
- 2) Ask tour guide what other schools he/she applied to and why did he/she select their school?
- 3) Will Tour Guide's knowledge, friendliness & enthusiasm (or lack of) influence me a great deal about me possibly being a student at that school for the next few years?