

Spring 2014

# How to Make the Most of Your College Visit

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## Recommended Citation

Jones, Melissa and Mandelke, Amy, "How to Make the Most of Your College Visit" (2014). *Counseling Concepts and Applications for Student Affairs Professionals (CNS 577)*. Paper 27.  
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# How to Make the Most of Your College Visit



do's, don'ts and other items to think about....

after all it is an investment in **YOUR** future

*As you transition to College there Are many factors to consider before even stepping foot on campus...*

It is important to take responsibility for discovering the information needed to make the best decision for YOU! The hardest part is getting started, and here are some steps how:

## 1. When to Start

The process of choosing a college will take a considerable amount of time. Starting early will allow you to perform a complete evaluation of each college you are considering. Generally it is recommended that you begin looking into colleges during the Spring Semester of your Junior year.

## 2. How to Start

It's simple — brainstorm

- ◆ Create a “dream” list of colleges to consider
- ◆ Once you have a comprehensive list, prioritize colleges by order of interest.

## 3. Use the Web

Using your “dream” list write down 3–5 top reasons that you want to attend each college.

- ◆ Start your research by visiting the college's website to view information regarding those interests to confirm that it will meet those needs.
- ◆ Then look at the academic program pages of interest, the events calendar and other interests such as Student Groups, Sports and Religious organizations.
- ◆ Be sure to create a ‘College Search Portfolio’ to keep notes from your research organized for later evaluation.

## 4. Use Your Network

Your parents, guidance counselors, teachers and other mentors have a wealth of knowledge to offer you as you seek the answers to make this very important decision. Don't forget to ask other family members and friends for advice.

## 5. Evaluate & Narrow Down

To narrow your “dream” list down to 3–5 colleges based on your research findings, try creating a pros and cons list for each college choice. It's also a good idea to keep notes on specific information that you wish to learn about the college.

**Important Questions to Ask**

1. What will I see on a guided tour and how much time will I be allotted
2. Who will be guiding my tour and how do I make special requests beyond the typical tour
3. What is the Student / Teacher ratio for program specific classes
4. Does the program I am interested in have any National recognition
5. What is the average job placement rate for my interested academic program
6. What types of academic support is offered
7. What types of Financial Aid packages are offered
8. What extracurricular activities are offered
9. Describe the campus security
10. What facilities and programs are offered related to Student Health



Adapted from Top 10 Campus Visit Questions (Sloane 2013) published on CollegeXpress.com

**The Tour**

You have three options to evaluate your top choices

- Guided Tour
  - Group or Individual
  - Campus Professional to tell you what you're seeing and answer questions you may have along the way
  - Structured
  - time sensitive
- Self- Guided Tour
  - Individual
  - Structured with flexibility
  - not time sensitive
  - check in and receive maps, suggested routes and other information to assist
- Casual visit
  - no structure
  - not time sensitive
  - lack of knowledgeable person to answer questions or relay information

**They say attending a college you've never visited is like getting married on a blind date**

Kevin McMullin (2012)

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To make the most of your College Visit you may have to make special requests. Do not hesitate to ask to see or experience options that you consider to be important to you.

- \* Be paired with a current student enrolled in the program of interest and attend classes with them.
- \* Attend a class related to your program of interest.
- \* Schedule a meeting with Director of the program of interest.
- \* Stay overnight in the Residence Hall
- \* Have a meal in the Dining Facility
- \* Obtain access to extracurricular activities such as the Fitness Center or Band Practice
- \* Make appointments with Fraternity or Sorority groups
- \* Make an appointment with the Financial Aid office for a consultation.

College Results Online

<http://www.collegeresults.org/default.aspx>

The Professors Guide

<http://www.professorsguide.com/>

NSSE Institute

<http://nsse.iub.edu/institute/>

US News (education related)

<http://www.usnews.com/education>

You Visit

<http://www.youvisit.com/>

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/>

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