

HOW TO MAXIMIZE A COLLEGE VISIT

**A COLLEGE VISIT IS NOT JUST A TOUR.
IT IS A FACT-FINDING MISSION
ABOUT FIT, OPPORTUNITY & FUTURE
RETURN ON INVESTMENT.**

BEFORE YOU GO

- REGISTER FOR THE OFFICIAL TOUR AND INFO SESSION
- REVIEW MAJORS, PROGRAMS, AND CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES
- CHECK THE COMMON DATA SET (CDS)
- LOOK UP GRADUATION RATE AND RETENTION RATE
- RESEARCH THE COLLEGE'S COMP SCHOOLS
- INFORM YOUR REGIONAL ADMISSIONS REP OF YOUR UPCOMING VISIT; IF POSSIBLE, HAND SHAKE MEETING
- PREPARE A SHORT LIST OF QUESTIONS
- IF POSSIBLE, REQUEST EXTRAS: CLASS VISIT, PROFESSOR MEETING, RESIDENCE HALL, DINING HALL

WHAT TO OBSERVE

- CAN YOU PICTURE YOURSELF HERE?
- CAMPUS SIZE AND LAYOUT
- STUDENT ENERGY AND VIBE
- RESIDENCE HALLS AND STUDY SPACES
- ACADEMIC BUILDINGS FOR YOUR MAJOR
- DINING AND GATHERING SPACES
- WALKABILITY AND SURROUNDING TOWN
- FIND PEOPLE WHO REMIND YOU OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS
- NEIGHBORHOOD / SURROUNDINGS
- PEOPLE WATCH: FIND PEOPLE WHO RESEMBLE YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS

SMART QUESTIONS TO ASK

ADMISSIONS / TOUR GUIDE:

- WHAT KIND OF STUDENT THRIVES HERE?
- WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THIS COLLEGE?
- WHAT WERE SOME THINGS YOU STRUGGLED WITH?
- WHAT SUPPORT EXISTS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS?
- HOW EASY IS IT TO CHANGE MAJORS?

CURRENT STUDENTS:

- WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS COLLEGE?
- WHAT IS YOUR TYPICAL WEEKDAY LIKE? WEEKENDS?
- WHAT DO YOU DO OUTSIDE OF CLASS?
- WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE ENROLLING?

AFTER THE VISIT

- DID THIS CAMPUS ENERGIZE OR DRAIN ME?
- COULD I SEE MYSELF BELONGING HERE?
- DID THE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT FEEL RIGHT?
- WAS THE CAMPUS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL?
- WOULD I GROW HERE?
- DOES THE COST AND OUTCOME POTENTIAL MAKE SENSE?
- IF YOU HAD BAD WEATHER, COME BACK ON A GORGEOUS DAY
- DO I HAVE ANY DUAL CREDITS/AP CREDITS TO TRANSFER?
- REEXAMINE THE COMMON DATA SET
- JOIN SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES (PARENTS, TOO!)
- EMAIL ADMISSIONS REP WITH THANKS FOR THE MEET UP, IF APPLICABLE

REFLECTIONS:

- WHERE WOULD I FIT ON THIS CAMPUS : SOCIALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, CULTURALLY?
- WAS IT EASY TO TRAVEL TO? DOES THE DISTANCE MAKE SENSE?
- WHAT GROUPS OR COMMUNITIES COULD I SEE MYSELF JOINING?
- DID I SEE STUDENTS WHO REMINDED ME OF MY FRIENDS?
- COULD I PICTURE MY DAILY LIFE HERE?
- HONEST ASSESSMENT: SHAKY ACADEMICS? NEED SUPPORT WITH EMOTIONAL HEALTH PULSE-READS? KEEP IT 60-180 MINUTES FROM HOME (CLOSE ENOUGH / FAR ENOUGH)
- PARENTS: TRY NOT TO COMPARE YOUR GLORY DAYS WITH YOUR KIDDOS...THEY ARE LIVING IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD