



Happy August, everyone. I hope the past month proved exciting. SYAH spent its time contemplating the aspects of picking the right college. There are the obvious ones- credit transfer, majors, costs- and the not-so-obvious ones like location, social environment, and local opportunities. These aspects are crucial to understand given that college is a huge investment, and it's important to feel like you're in the right place.

This past month, SYAH launched a *college tours pilot program* to help students untangle the web that is college decisions. This month's newsletter explores that web, walks through the pilot program, and tours its results. Come with us to take a trip through **the university matrix**...



SINCE WE LAST SPOKE... WHAT'S NEW?

OUR RESOURCES

- **INVESTING 101 -**
 - FULL RESOURCE: [LINK](#)

LIVE EVENTS

- **COLLEGE TOURS PILOT PROGRAM-**
 - 2 DAYS/OVERNIGHT
 - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES
 - HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

QUICK CHANGES

- **BLOG LOOK-**
 - SLIDE SHOW VIEW
 - CLICK TILE FOR PAGE



THE UNIVERSITY MATRIX...

WHY COLLEGE TOURS?

College is not just classes. It is a web of a student's academics, social life, finances, networking, and independence. It's a place you choose to focus your energy for the better part of four years in your life. Understanding what aspects you value in a college experience helps you get the most out of your time. Of these aspects, let's explore a few that are often overlooked. (1.) Location: The environment can play a huge factor in your college experience. Food, size of the city, community, and transportation will factor into every part of your daily life and can greatly change your experiences and interactions at university. (2.) Opportunities: Do you want to study abroad? Do research? Play sports? A fulfilling college often focuses on and incorporates the opportunities/activities you care about, and while different colleges may offer more opportunities than others, those same colleges may be more competitive for those opportunities. Without experiencing a college environment, it is difficult to tell which aspects you may value. College tours help bridge that gap and provide students with more firsthand experience to make their decisions.

*Duluth Community
School Collaborative
(DCSC) Student Photos*



*Hamline
University*

COLLEGE TOURS PILOT PROGRAM!

Despite being a valuable tool, college tours can be inaccessible. While Duluth students can easily tour their smaller, local colleges, the cost, time, and logistics of traveling to schools further away make it difficult and stressful. SYAH and the DCSC collaborated to launch a pilot program providing local high school students with free, organization-facilitated college tours in harder-to-reach areas. The overnight trip included visits to Hamline University and the University of MN Twin Cities, time to explore surrounding campus areas, and a stop at the Mall of America. SYAH's college tours included both public and private universities in a highly populated metro area, supplying students a contrasting experience to their local tours, better understanding their options, and confidence about the college admissions process.

Student Reflections:

*Paraphrased from verbal
and written student input.*

Students felt they learned a lot about the differences in resources, opportunities, and college life across varying campuses. They approve of the colleges toured and appreciate the time spent exploring the surrounding area. They recommend adding more tours and working with the colleges to center the tours more around students' potential career paths. They believe the tours were a resounding success, and are enthusiastic about future SYAH tours.



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Or visit us @ <https://syah.info/>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!
ALL THE BEST.

- SYAH

