

Campus Tours and Information Sessions

One of the best things you can do for yourself in this college search process is to have FUN and learn things about YOU. When you head out for campus tours and information sessions you should also leave time to EXPLORE where you are-it's likely to be a new town or city to you.

- ★ Try the local spot for coffee or the best ice cream shop in town. Find out where everyone goes to eat and enjoy!
- ★ Maybe you like to bike, hike or run. Check out the trails or parks nearby.
- ★ Maybe you like museums, art, music. Spend an afternoon exploring the local art scene.
- ★ Shop local!
- ★ This could be great hangout time with your family or friend or whoever your travel companion is for the tour. Make the most of it! Can you see yourself in that area for 4 years?

TOURS

Tours vary in length but can be 45 minutes to 2 hours long. Each school will indicate how long the tour will be on their website when you sign up. Tourguides like to walk backwards and talk to you as they walk!

If you do enough of these you start to hear about and see the same trending things on campuses: the wide array of foods in the dining hall catering to all sorts of dietary restrictions, wellness centers, climbing walls, wifi under the lawn so you can work outside on nice days, puppy therapy, blue light safety systems. Be discerning. Go beyond the basics and ask good questions! *see "helpful hints" for sample questions.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions are usually 30 or so minutes and usually hosted by an admission counselor, director and sometimes even the dean. Sometimes they show a video or have a student share the "highlights" of the school. The information session will usually include a summary of the admission process, academic options and campus climate/culture. This is an introduction and precursor to the tour.

Setting Up A Campus Visit

- You should do this (leave the hotel and travel plans to your parents!). You can learn a lot by visiting the school's website!
- Try to schedule your visit a few weeks ahead.

- Logon to the website of the college you want to visit. Go to admissions/campus visit page.
- Register for a tour and/or information session. If you can only do one, choose the tour.
- If a tour or information session is already full, and you are in the area, go ahead and try. Many people don't show up or cancel so there is likely to be a spot for you!
- Collect whatever materials look appealing while you are in the admission office. Sometimes they will give you a packet (some places give you "something" after the tour-their local ice cream, a discount to the bookstore, a t-shirt, string backpack, etc.)
- Ask to talk to a tourguide or student worker who is studying what you might be interested in-especially if the tourguide you had does things you are not so excited about.
- If you are able to connect with the MD counselor, give it a try! Ask a few questions, make a connection.

Find these things on campus

They can help you determine if that particular school "feels" right.

- Campus paper. What's going on right now on campus? Speakers? What things are students fired up about? What is the tone on campus?
- Newest building on campus. What is it and what features did you like? Study spots? Green features? Classroom layout or lab? Coffee shop?
- A student. Where are they from? How did they pick the school? Where is their favorite place on campus and why?
- A cool place to study. Are students working collaboratively or working on their own, lost in their headphones and glued to their laptops?
- A place to eat. What makes it a social gathering spot? What do they serve? Sound yummy to you?
- List/posting of what's happening around campus over the next few weeks. Signs, bulletin boards, electronic signs can tell you so much about the countless activities offered, who's coming to campus from bands to politicians.
- Find a marker on campus that tells you something about the mission/ purpose, history, or "story" of the school. Maybe it's a quote somewhere or something you see again and again on campus.