

PARENT'S GUIDE TO COLLEGE TOURS

COLLEGE TOUR CHECKLIST

Visiting a college campus can help your student get a better feel for what life is like at college. Because there is a lot to consider, it can be overwhelming. Your student may not be thinking about some of the critical questions that will help him/her make their decision. Use this guide to help compare colleges with your student and decide which is the best fit for him/her. Remember this is your student's visit and ultimately his/her decision.

BEFORE YOUR TOUR	
	Browse the school's website, campus blogs, and social media pages. Prepare any questions you have ahead of time. Chat with your student about what they want in a school and any questions in advance.
DURING YOUR TOUR	
	Take pictures to remember what things look like and to jog your memory as you are comparing schools later.
	Chat with someone in the admissions office.
	Chat with someone in the financial aid office.
	Visit the career center.
	Get the names and business cards of people you meet, so you can contact them later if you have questions.
	Walk or drive around the surrounding neighborhood/off-campus housing.
	Take notes!
AFTER YOUR TOUR	
	Sit down with your student and review notes. Reach out to the people you spoke with on the tour with any follow-up questions. Chat with your student about his/her financial plan.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR TOUR

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are your housing policies?
- What should students bring with them to college?
- Do most students use Apple, PC products, or a mixture?
- Are there any tutoring opportunities?
- Are there any grocery shopping options both on and off campus?
- How do students get around campus (cars, bikes, walking, mopeds, etc.)?
- What is parking like on campus?
- What percentage of the student population lives on campus?
- Are professors accessible outside of classroom hours?
- In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?
- Are there visit days for parents?
- Do you encourage community service?
- Are there opportunities for independent study?

ASK ADMISSIONS

- What is the student retention rate?
- How diverse is the campus?
- Are there early admissions/early action programs?
- Are there honors courses?
- How do AP credits transfer?
- Do you recognize credit transfers?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- What information do you require besides the FAFSA?
- Are there scholarship opportunities?
- Are there other financial aid programs?
- Are tuition rates fixed?

ASK THE CAREER CENTER

- How do students pursue internship opportunities?
- Are there on-campus employment opportunities?
- What percentage of students get jobs right out of school?
- Are there career fairs?
- How do you help students prepare for employment after graduation?

