

## Campus Visit Checklist

Visits to schools beat pictures in brochures any day! If you have the opportunity, you should experience college life first-hand during your junior and senior years to be sure your home away from home will be the right one for you. Carefully plan each visit...and limit the number of visits to the schools that are most important to you.

### Planning the Visit

- Get a map of the campus.
- Plan at least a full day (and stay overnight, if possible) at each school.
- Visit when school is in session.
- Arrange an interview with an admissions officer or sign up for a group session, if available.
- Prepare a list of questions you might have about the school.
- Get a notebook to record the answers and your impressions.

### What to Do

- Take a campus tour.
- Talk with students and faculty.
- Attend a sporting event, if possible.
- Check out the stuff that's important to you (e.g. dorms, libraries, student unions, athletic facilities).

### What to Look For

- Watch how students spend their time: studying, partying, socializing, exercising...
- Check out the size of the average dorm room and what the normal furniture is.
- Look at what students have in their rooms and how they've arranged it (e.g., computers, TVs).
- What's available off campus? Restaurants, theaters, museums. public libraries, job opportunities?

### What to Ask

- Are there active fraternities and sororities on campus?
- How good is the food in the dining facilities?
- Can you stay in the dorm for more than freshman year? Can you have a single room or must you share? And if you're sharing, with how many others?
- What intercollegiate and intramural teams are represented on campus?
- What kinds of clubs and societies are represented on campus?
- How well are the campus and its facilities maintained?
- How safe is the campus? Where are the campus police located? Are there safety programs, such as escorts and emergency phone boxes on campus?

# School Interview Checklist

## Before

- Research colleges through brochures, course catalogs, and the web.
- Make an appointment.
- Get directions to the campus and admissions office.
- Practice answering the following sample questions.

## During

### Be prepared to answer...

- Why do you want to attend this school?
- What do you think will be your major? Why?
- How would you describe yourself to a stranger?
- What is your greatest accomplishment?
- What is the most significant contribution you've made to your school or community?
- What do you see yourself doing in the future? In five years? In ten years?
- What is your favorite book? Who's your favorite author?
- Tell me about your family.
- What extracurricular activities are important to you?
- What is your strongest/weakest point?
- If you could have lunch with one special person (dead or alive) who would it be? What would be your first question?
- Who are your heroes and why?
- How would you spend \$1 million in 24 hours?

## Ask

(Ask at least three questions that can't be answered in the school's brochures)

- Why would you recommend this school?
- How would you describe college life at this school?
- Do you have any advice for me?

## Interview Tips

- Get some practice. Try to schedule and interview at your "first choice college" last.
- Ask questions.
- Dress conservatively.
- Be focused, appropriately enthusiastic, confident, and honest.
- Thank the interviewer for the opportunity to learn more about the school.
- Make notes about the conversation.
- Send a thank you note.