

- Would you like to visit while school is in session? We would recommend this to really get a sense of the campus and the type of students who attend.
- Do you want to stay overnight if dorm overnights are available?
- Visit even if you are undecided about a major.
- Keep in mind that some schools will keep track of any and all contacts with them, including visits, interviews, college fair conversations, and if you attend the college's visit to the high school to gauge your interest in their school.

Take all of these things into consideration when planning your trip and length of stay. Know the answers to those questions before you call/sign-up for a tour, open house, interview time or overnight date. Also, realize that Open Houses are for the masses. Many students visit colleges on Open House days so there may be a limited amount of time (if allowed at all) for interviews, individual appointments, etc. on those particular days. They are however good for you and your parent(s) to get a wealth of information from a variety of different departments such as admissions, financial aid, the department that your major is included under, etc.

So, once you have the date and times of all your campus appointments, then you just sit back and wait, right? NO!

Be Prepared for Your Visit and/or Interview

- Keep doing research, or at least organize the research you already have done on the school(s) you are visiting. Use the College Comparison Worksheet (*) to help you to do this. Think about what will help you feel comfortable on a campus. This will be easier after you visit a couple of schools for comparison – so take every opportunity to visit a college, even it is for your older brother, sister, cousin or friend or just because it is close to home!
- Before you go, look again at the catalog and online, especially at the sections on admission requirements, tuition, programs of study, and scholarships. This prevents you from asking questions that are already answered somewhere else. There are things that you should ask on your visit/interview and things you shouldn't have to ask! Doing a little “homework” before your interview shows that you have done some serious thinking and reading about this particular college.
- Do some reading about the major(s) that attract(s) you to this college.
- Don't be afraid to bring a list of written questions for your visit and also for your interview. It's a good way to impress!