

MASTER YOUR COLLEGE VISIT

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FAMILIES



ADMISSION NETWORK, LLC



Let's begin by discussing two types of tours:
One is a virtual tour on the college website that is informative but not as "telling" as the physical visit. You want to begin with a virtual tour if it is offered, as it will provide you with the insight you need to ask questions of importance. First, as a student and parent, what is important in the actual 4-5 year learning experience? Make a list.

When in attendance, walk near the tour guide so you can hear and engage to get your questions answered.



QUESTIONS

Every visiting student should have a list of questions for discussion with their family for the car or plane ride home. Here is a list of ideas for discussion.

Will you be happy, safe, and motivated to learn in this college environment?

Is this college a good value compared to the other colleges on the list? What are the hidden costs? Can I afford this college? Is the ROI worth the expense?

Will I graduate in 4 years, or will it take longer based on the size of the college, and my selected major? Will they accept my AP and IB/Dual enrollment classes?

Are the facilities state-of-the-art? Is there a student center with recreational activities? Are there several food options everyday on campus, and off? In 4 years, will you have the proper nutrition to sustain your health?

Are there tutors, and advisors to ensure that I am on track academically, stay on track and progress toward my end goal of the degree?

Will my values be upheld at this college?
info@AdmissionNetwork.org

How will they prepare me for my career utilizing my major?

Are health services available on campus, 7 days a week for when I get the flu, or have a cut or burn or sprain? If I have something more serious, will they also be able to handle high-risk emergencies on the week-end? Are vaccinations required? Which ones?

In what major companies do students gain employment after graduation. What is the graduation rate? What is the average salary upon graduation and what percentage of students have loans?

Can students participate in research, if so when? What percentage have internships?

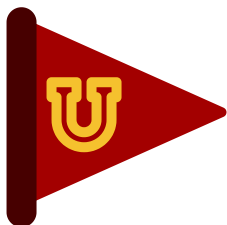
HOW DID I FEEL WHEN I VISITED? DID I FEEL COMFORTABLE? WILL I FIT IN WITH OTHER STUDENTS ON CAMPUS, AND MAKE LASTING FRIENDSHIPS?

During the visit make sure you:

- take lots of pictures
- eat a meal on campus
- see a residence hall for first-year students
- see a classroom, visualize yourself here
- talk to students
- talk to at least one professor or coach
- roam around a little by yourself either before or after the tour
- take notes, wear comfortable shoes, take an umbrella



*Admission Network educates students
and empowers leaders*



PARENTS

Choosing the best college for your son or daughter is a daunting process. You may want different things but ultimately you want them to have a good to great experience, while growing and learning in a safe and healthy environment where they can thrive and ultimately become an employed young adult.

You remember them when they were losing their first tooth, catching the bus and going to their first dance or athletic competition. It is hard to imagine them living away from you, choosing their food, their new friends, and their class schedule without your steady guidance. It will be difficult but fun to share each visit with them.

Colleges have different guidelines and expectations, and you do as well. But so does your student. They may want things that you feel are unnecessary, like chicken nuggets, or their own bathroom, or their car. They may think they want to go to college on the other coast, and it is your family values that will ultimately afford you both to make the best decisions. I hope the following helps you in your search for the best fit college for your son or daughter.



MORE TIPS

Things to Look for, Question or Notice:

- Happy Smiling Students
- Knowledgeable Caring Professors and Administrators
- Diversity - it means everyone is welcome
- Career services that offer internships, research opportunities, counsel, resume editing, etc. to prepare them for their professional life ahead
- Abundance of healthy, fresh and enticing food choices and some food options 24 hrs a day.
- How will they get home? Will it take hours on a plane or in a car? What will it cost?

Things you hopefully will not see or experience:

- Concerning neighborhood (drive around the block)
- Buildings in ill-repair - look at cracks in foundations, trash, graffiti, broken elevators, dirty bathrooms or old facilities
- Smells that are annoying, foreign, or could be allergens for your student
- Hidden fees on top of tuition. Some colleges add an additional \$2,500 - \$5,000 in fees for technology, health insurance, athletics, etc. that your student may or may not utilize.
- Unsafe situations or comments that give you pause. Check out the Clery report on the college's website to see their recent reports on campus incidents.
- Fire is the worst possibility in a college residence hall. Look for overloaded electrical sockets.



EVEN MORE

Special Advice on Safety and Health

It is always difficult to ascertain the emergency situation that can evolve on a college campus. In my 30+ years in senior administration on a dozen different college campuses, coast to coast, I have experienced Covid, lock-downs, suicides, assaults, protests, gun violence, tornadoes, a blizzard, black bears, hurricanes, and even the death of a college president. You must choose wisely. The world has changed since you went to college, and 4 or 5 years is a lot of time to escape all of the incidents that a parent can worry about. The answer lies in the manner in which a college handles the emergency and the methods they utilize to mitigate them. Ask questions and continue to ask questions. Every change in leadership changes the culture on a campus. And, storms happen.

The visit is your opportunity to explore. Not all colleges or cultures are the same. You are being diligent; not annoying. You are investing in an outcome and you want it to be positive.

“Success doesn’t just come and find you, you have to go out and get it.”

-- Unknown

Rebecca Eckstein, MA, PCC