

College Visit Tips

Combining college visits while on vacation offers a great balance of fun, research and keeping anxiety and pressure down. Keep in mind that while college visits seem optimal during summer vacation, what might be missing from the campus tour are the college students. So how can you maximize your time on campus and in the surrounding community? Here are some starter tips to help you with what you need to know. Remember to build a list of your own questions before you go – and take notes.

Planning your trip: New favorite resource: <https://www.daytripperuniversity.com>

- Are you visiting one campus or multiple campuses?
- Can you stay within walking distance of the campus so you can get a sense of what it is like to be a student walking to classes and living there?
- Try to visit when school is in session so you can see who the students are.
- Can you sit in on a class? Some schools will arrange that for seniors and sometimes juniors.
- Thinking about a specialty? Can you visit that school? Meet professors or coach if you're an athlete?
- Tours book early, so sign up in advance of your trip - you can always change or cancel if your plans shift.
- Signing up for tours and info session in advance – what if you can't take the tour – do the self-guided tour.
- Bring a notebook – and take notes!

Tips and Questions for College Visits

- Pick up the latest edition of the school paper.
- Visit departments that would support your interests: study abroad, your major, academic support, recreational facilities.
- Find out if there are additional fees to travel, work out or join an intramural team.
- Try to talk with a professor in the area in which you're interested.
- Visit the library and find out how extensive the on-campus resources are.
- Are there multiple libraries? What are the hours they are open?
- Do colleges nearby share resources?
- Are there study rooms for groups in the library as well quiet places?
- What's your favorite comfort food and is it in walking distance? Try out the campus food. Are there other options that a flexible meal-plan will support? If you don't know what the meal plan is – find out.
- Where is the closest pharmacy and what are the hours of operation?
- Do the dorms have air conditioning?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- Take pictures to remember the campus.
- How big are freshman classes – really?
- Do graduate students or professors do most of the teaching?
- What is the teacher/student ratio for average classes?
- What is the teacher/student ratio for freshman and underclassman classes?
- Do they have an honors program, core curriculum or options to design your own major?
- Is the school on the semester or quarter system?
- Stop a student and ask them a few questions:
 - What do they like best?
 - If they could choose a school again, what would they do?
- Get recommendations on classes, professors, places to eat... you get the picture.
- Is there public transportation, Uber, bikeshare, or some other means to support getting around campus and off-campus?
- What are some of the traditions, trivia and good to know facts?