

Galin Guides

College Visits

ABOUT GALIN EDUCATION

Galin Education is an education company that works with students as they prepare for and apply to college.

We work with students one-on-one and in small groups for tutoring, academic coaching, enrichment, test prep, and admissions counseling for college and graduate school.

Galin Education also works with a variety of education organizations throughout the country, including schools, camps, and educational technology companies.

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COLLEGE VISITS

AN OVERVIEW

College visits are an important part of the college search, application, and admissions process.

Visiting campuses will help you focus your search, first in the kind of schools you will be applying to and eventually in finalizing your college wishlist. Learning about unique opportunities on different campuses, experiencing a variety of communities, and understanding each school's philosophy and culture will help you decide where will be the right place for you to live and pursue your dreams.

Not only does visiting different schools help you identify the right fit, it can also help you during the application process itself. Applicants are often asked to explain why they are interested in a particular school on the application in the form of an essay; therefore, notes from an engaging college visit can help in the execution of such an essay. Furthermore, schools are tracking students' demonstrated interest in myriad ways, and visiting a school is one of the most effective ways to show you are a serious applicant. Visits are also the best way to begin a relationship with the admissions counselors at the school, which will help you stand out as an applicant.

Last but not least, college visits serve one more very practical purpose: they will allow you to experience the travel requirements and accessibility of a location so you are ready for the experience when you finally head out for move-in day. Instead of feeling lost on your first day of class, you will be somewhat familiar with your surroundings and ready to tackle your first semester.

To help you make the most of your visits, we have put together this guide that outlines the different types of college visits, tips for planning these visits, ways that students can use these visits to help them with their ultimate college choice, and, finally, ways that students can use these visits to improve their chances of getting into that top-choice college. Please note that each family will have to decide how they can manage and afford these visits. There are going to be some schools you will be able to visit multiple times due to proximity; others you might never get to see until you are making your final decision. The timeline and number of schools visited are variable. This is truly a guidebook, not a rule book.

In the following sections, we go through how to plan for each of the four types of visits listed below:



**Exploratory
Visits**



**Prospective
Visits**



**Early Decision
Visits**



**Admit
Visits**



EXPLORATORY VISITS

FIRST ROUND VISITS

These are the visits that make college real. Often, exploratory visits will be a student's first time on a college campus, which—if you've never stepped foot on campus before—can be a strange experience, especially compared to the high school environment. More importantly, exploratory visits help students learn about and focus on the process ahead of them. By going on tours and walking around campus, students are introduced to what kind of educational experience they are heading towards. College is no longer an abstract idea; it becomes a vivid experience.

In other words, students are just getting their feet wet in this process. For this reason, the exploratory visit is the least intense and most straightforward. At this stage, there is no need to jump to conclusions or decide anything. As the name suggests, students are here to explore their options.



GOALS OF THE VISIT



Understand the college visit.

It may seem obvious, but it is important to note. Understanding what a college visit looks and feels like will help students begin to feel comfortable in the process. With time and practice, they will feel more confident on their college tours, which will be invaluable when students start zeroing in on prospective schools.



Get a realistic picture of college.

Before stepping foot on a campus for the first time, students often have a vague sense of what college actually is. It is best, therefore, to visit the school while it is actually in session. Then the student will be able to see current students in “their natural habitat.” What does an actual day at college feel like at this school? By the end of your visit, you should be able to say.



Figure out what matters to you.

During these visits, students should start developing a list of the important features of a prospective fit. Though the student may not have the best idea of what they are looking for early in the process, the college visit will probably reveal some aspects they really like and some aspects they do not. Do they want to attend a school with a core curriculum or an open curriculum? Is it important for them to be at a school with a lot of sports programs or not? Do they want to be in a rural environment or do they want to be surrounded by a big city? Is Greek life something they want present on campus or something they'd like to avoid? What are the advantages of each school? These are broad questions, but important ones to ponder because they can help a student limit options very quickly.



Differentiate the types of schools.

Though each campus is unique, there certainly are general categories that each school falls into, based on size, affiliation, and specialty. These exploratory visits are a great way for students to start figuring out what kind of school fits them best. Check out the table on page 14 to help categorize different types of schools.

**Not all
those who
wander are
lost.**

- J.R.R Tolkien

PLANNING EXPLORATORY VISITS



WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THESE VISITS?

Exploratory visits can start freshman year or even earlier. That said, these visits are really well-suited for sophomores. With a year of school under their belt, sophomores are probably in a position to start noticing their strengths and thinking about what they might want to pursue after high school—even if only in the broadest sense.

This type of trip is pretty casual, so take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. Heading to a new city for vacation? Take an afternoon to tour a college nearby. Is an older sibling, cousin, or friend visiting a school this weekend? Tag along. Are you driving through a college town on a long road trip? Stretch your legs by walking around campus and then grab lunch.

HOW TO PLAN THIS TRIP

- ▶ **Variety is key.** As stated before, one goal for exploratory visits is for students to start differentiating college types. So visit a mixed bag: big state schools, small private liberal arts colleges, and a few in between.
- ▶ **Spend a short amount of time on each campus.** At this point, students do not need to spend a whole night or weekend at a school. Instead, half a day per school is more than sufficient.
- ▶ **Decide your route.** At most, see two colleges per day. Otherwise, the schools will start to blur together, and students will experience information overload. Students shouldn't feel sick of college before it even starts!
- ▶ **Make sure to register.** This is important. Students who register will be demonstrating their interest in a college, and colleges track that information. Colleges want to increase their yield as much as possible, and so they use data to help them in their admissions decisions. To increase your chances, register!
- ▶ **Do the canned activities.** Go on a campus tour and attend the information session if available.
- ▶ **Do one thing not photoshopped by the admissions office.** Do something low stakes where you're the observer and are able to see the natural rhythms of the campus. Visit the student union or a popular eating spot on campus. Do some people watching and eavesdrop on a few conversations. Just try to get a feel for the campus beyond what they advertise.
- ▶ **Visit the hotspots of campus that interest you.** Take a look inside the interesting buildings and find the beautiful spots on campus. Let yourself get excited about being a student there.



It is the unknown
that **excites the**
ardor of scholars,
who, in the
known alone,
would shrivel up
with boredom.

- Wallace Stevens



PROSPECTIVE VISITS

SECOND ROUND VISITS

There comes a point when the student has to start making tough decisions. At this critical point in the college search process, the student needs to start prospective visits to figure out to which schools he or she will apply.

Unlike exploratory visits, prospective visits are not made for convenience only; the student now has a real interest in the school. The student should have invested time researching the school and determined that the school has all of the things he or she is looking for in a school—it's checked all of the boxes.

By this point students need to also assess their chances of admissions and fit. Students should go over the admissions requirements and make sure their test scores and grades are within the requirements of the university. This also means that students should no longer be visiting colleges that are not an admissions fit. Instead, students should be using prospective visits to put together a final list of schools that they will be eligible and excited to attend.

GOALS OF THE VISIT

Zero in on prospective schools.

Prospective visits are the time to start paring down the school list so students can begin preparing applications.

Assess your fit.

First and foremost, students need to decide if the school is a good fit. Does this school have the majors they are interested in pursuing? Does this school have a curriculum that fits their needs? Do they feel they can be successful at this school? If the school seems to check all of the boxes, students then need to assess if they are a qualified applicant. If students feel on the borderline—that this school will be a reach—they can start strategizing how they might make strides to differentiate themselves in the upcoming school year through extracurricular activities and coursework.

Prepare to write application essays.

One of the most common supplemental essay prompts schools ask is “Why are you applying here?” Students should use these prospective visits to start brainstorming answers to this important question. Students and parents would be wise to take notes of what they see and hear on the trip, especially any academic opportunities that are unique to the campus and peak their interest. In these “Why?” essays, students need to be able to go beyond the school's brochure or the tour pamphlet. Instead, they need to dig deep and find out the specifics that really stand out about the school. Their “insider knowledge” won't only impress the school but also show their interest—both great ways to make admissions chances likelier.

Start finalizing the decision plan.

Some students and families might be interested in going the Early Decision (ED) route, meaning one school has been identified as the clear top choice with zero hesitations. Prospective visits should be used to really start looking into schools and determining which one is worthy of an ED—or if you'd rather wait and play the field.

Do your homework! Use the school's website and tools like CollegePlanner Pro to assess your admissions chances.



PLANNING PROSPECTIVE VISITS



WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THESE VISITS?

Ideally, the best time to do some prospective college visits is spring break of junior year—right when they should be compiling their college list—but anytime during junior year is still good. The reality is that many students will be taking prospective visits in the summer months between junior and senior year, which is fine—just not ideal. The reason? Students should strive to have their college list figured out by summer so they can start on applications while they have time off from school. The more students can accomplish in summer, the less they will have to worry about application season interrupting their high school studies.

HOW TO PLAN THIS TRIP

► Check out and take advantage of additional offerings from the admissions office.

Try to go beyond the tour and information session. Admissions offices are often eager to host you in other ways, such as helping students sit in on a class or set you up to meet with admissions representatives. Vanderbilt, for example, will let prospective students shadow a current student for a day of classes. At St. Olaf in Minnesota, the admissions office advertises opportunities to go to chapel, enjoy a meal, or meet with the financial aid office.

► Make a connection with the specific college or program that interests you.

By going through the appropriate channels, students might be able to set up a meeting with a professor in your potential major. Athletes can sometimes reach out to coaches of the team. If those folks are not available, see if you can talk to a student currently majoring in a field of interest. Find out what the current student sees as strengths and weaknesses of the school. This is the time to be gathering as much interest as possible—leave no stone unturned!

► Decide your route.

If planning to visit a number of prospective schools in one trip, limit your visits to one school per day. These prospective visits can get exhausting, and trying to jam-pack a trip with too many will be unproductive. There should be enough time to sit back and reflect on each college without wearing the whole family out.

► Stay a whole day.

In order to get a really good feel for the place, you'll have to be submerged in it for a while. Campuses can often have different tones at different times of the day. If possible, make sure you get the flavor of the community in the morning, during the day, and at night. Also, don't just stick to campus. Visit different areas of the community and soak it all in.



WHAT NOT TO DO ON THESE VISITS

Don't let the weather get you down.

Any campus can have a bad weather day or an abnormally great day. Therefore, don't let that day's weather skew your view of the college. That said, climate is a reality can be a deciding factor for some students. You will have cold and snow at the University of Wisconsin, you will have clouds and rain at the University of Washington, and you will have hot and muggy days at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Don't put much stock in your tour guide. Whether you had an amazing or underwhelming experience on the tour, you will likely never see this person again. Furthermore, they are often given a script they must follow, meaning they might not be giving the most authentic answers.



EARLY DECISION VISITS

CONFIRMING A COMMITMENT

Are you ready to commit? For students who plan to apply Early Decision, this is the final chance to see the school before turning in that application. This is the visit that should help the student make the final decision whether he or she will apply Early Decision or not. Students should not be lukewarm about this decision: the student and family need to be 100% sure that this school is the top choice and that the student will attend if accepted.

Before getting into the nuts and bolts of this type of visit, there are some misconceptions about Early Decision. In sum, be aware and adhere to the restrictions of Early Decision and Early Action.

GOALS OF THE VISIT

Make sure you're sure.

You are selecting your top choice and making a commitment; therefore, you need to be sure this truly is the top choice.

Prepare for the binding choice.

Early Decision means that you are not only choosing one school; you are also declining all other offers from any other school. In addition to making a binding commitment to a school, you are making a binding commitment to a community. Are you sure this is where you want to live for the next four years? Find out the answer to that question.

Figure out the financial commitment.

Make sure your finances are in order by talking to a representative from the financial aid office. If you didn't get chance to talk to financial aid yet and finances are a major concern, you should make this a top priority of your visit. Set up the appointment ahead of time.

EARLY DECISION MYTHS & REALITIES	
Myth	Reality
<i>"You can always get out of it—it's not a big deal."</i>	Early decision is a binding, serious commitment.
<i>"Apply to multiple schools Early Decision—you'll likely just get into one anyway."</i>	Trying to game the system by applying Early Decision to more than one school is a bad idea.
<i>"The only reason that student got in was because she/he applied Early Decision."</i>	While it may increase admissions chances, applying Early Decision will never make an inadmissible student admissible. All it will do is help differentiate a student from other equally qualified applicants.
<i>"If I apply Early Decision, I will not receive the need-based aid I require in order to attend."</i>	Your chances of receiving need-based aid are not affected by going Early Decision. Your chances of being awarded merit-based scholarships, however, may decrease.
<i>"There is absolutely no way to be excused from an Early Decision commitment. Ever."</i>	A significant change in family circumstance, such as a major illness or major loss of job, may grant you permission from the university to break the commitment. If that is the case and your circumstances allow you to get out of the commitment, there is no way to gain your admission back later.

PLANNING EARLY DECISION VISITS



WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THESE VISITS?

Students considering Early Decision should visit before the Early Decision deadline, which is typically in fall around November 1 (though it does vary by school). To make sure you have plenty of time to make this big decision, you should plan this trip for early fall or late summer. Ideally, you want to visit when students are on campus and taking classes so you are able to see the campus in full swing.

HOW TO PLAN THIS TRIP

- ▶ **Cover anything you didn't cover.** Engage with people on campus and people in the admissions office to make sure you know everything necessary in order to make an informed decision. This is your last chance to make sure all of your boxes are checked before making the big commitment.
- ▶ **Take the deepest dive you can make in places that matter.** In addition to understanding the breadth of opportunities on campus, make sure you really understand the opportunities available in your area of study. Sit in on a class that interests you in the field you want to study; even sit in on a class that doesn't interest you in the field you want to study. Check out the building where that department is housed and learn all you can. If the school allows, try to set up a conversation with a professor in your field of choice; prepare questions ahead of time so you can make sure you have all the information you need.
- ▶ **Get beyond the admissions office and reach out to others on campus.** To get a truly authentic look at campus, you will want to meet and converse with people who actually attend the school. Find students who will speak openly about their experience. They may answer the questions you didn't even know needed asking.
- ▶ **Plan to stay overnight.** If you are able, it is wise to stick around for more than just one day. If you do not personally know anyone on campus yourself, some schools may even let you crash in the dorms. Not only will you get an authentic understanding of the living situation, you'll likely meet groups of students excited to share their experiences. Lastly, you will gain the experience of waking up in this new community. Though it may not feel like home yet, do you see this as a place that could be your home for the next four years? Are you excited by this possibility?



Sit down with someone who knows the campus well and can give you some specific advice before you go.



Sitting in on a class can help you really understand what kind of educational community you are entering.

Never ignore a **gut feeling**, but never believe that it's enough.

- Robert Heller -



ADMIT VISITS

THE FINAL ROUND OF VISITS

You're in! Now what? After you have been admitted, you may want to visit campus again before you move-in for real. There are a lot of good reasons to make time for such a visit. This will be a chance for you to meet your future classmates, learn even more about the school, check out residential living options, and start scouting out prospective activities you will pursue as a student.

Most importantly, this last visit should help you make the final decision. You now know definitively that you have the opportunity to attend—this trip should help you decide if you will take that opportunity.



GOALS OF THE VISIT

Make connections.

Time to meet some fellow students and make friends! It will be nice knowing a few people on campus before you leave home in the fall. Colleges know this, so many host some sort of “Accepted Students Day” to welcome students and let everyone mingle. But do not stick to just the incoming class; try to make connections with students who already know what they are doing!

Find your campus niche.

While on campus, try to scope out clubs and activities that interest you. Often at Accepted Student Days, student organizations will set up tables to recruit new members. However, if this opportunity isn't available during your visit, seek out a few clubs on the school's website and find out if the student can meet a current member for coffee. Finding some clubs to join early on will help you find friends outside of the dorm who have similar interests and goals.

Assess living situations and options.

This is a good time to figure out where you would like to live while attending. Each dormitory has its own feel, so you may want to visit a few to get a good sense of your options. Furthermore, colleges often have learning communities that students can enter into as freshmen, such as language immersion houses or a house filled with students studying the same subject. Figure out if these types of living situations appeal to you so you are ready to indicate that on your enrollment forms.

Step out into the community.

Find the best food trucks. Check out the outlet situation in the local coffee shop. Walk through the aisles of the grocery store. Go to a few independent bookstores. Attend a jazz concert. Get dinner at a local establishment. Shop at the places around campus. Sit in on a drum circle. Walk through a town park nearby. In sum, immerse yourself in the community and see where you might fit in!

Make a final decision!

This is it! This is where you're going to spend the next four years, so make sure that you really get a good sense of the community you are about to enter. In summary: do what you need to do to make your final decision!

**May your
choices
reflect your
hopes, not
your fears.**

- Nelson Mandela

PLAN THE ADMIT VISIT



WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THESE VISITS?

Because most schools require students will know where they've been accepted in mid-March, and because schools typically require students to make final decisions and deposits by May, these visits typically take place in April. You may want to plan in advance and make sure you've got a free weekend (or two) available during that month.

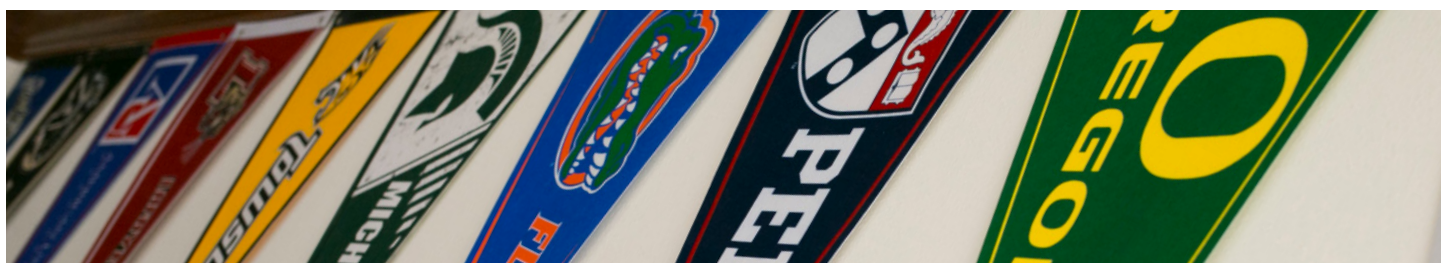
HOW TO PLAN THIS TRIP

- ▶ **Attend the “Accepted Students Day.”** If you can make this work, this is the easiest way to make the most of this final visit. Many schools meticulously prepare for these events to make sure students have a good experience. These events provide students many opportunities to fill up an itinerary with school organization fairs, panels, and social events. Take advantage of this opportunity if you can!
- ▶ **Give students as much time on their own as possible.** Students will be on their own soon enough, so it is a good idea for them to experience what it's like to be on their own on campus at least once before they pack their bags for move-in day. Also, without mom and dad around, students are more likely to make genuine connections with other students.
- ▶ **Save time to peruse different living situations.** Prepare for your search by doing some additional research before you visit. Since this will be your home for the next year, figure out if there are tours you can take of the different dormitories on campus. If interested in living off campus freshman year, take some time to do some apartment shopping. Again, it would be wise to research these options ahead of time—if you're sure you'll be attending, you might even be able to sign a lease before you leave!
- ▶ **Make connections.** Most importantly, social connections. Many prospective admitted students like you will be on campus searching for friends, too. Find a few good people and stay in touch so you have some friendly faces when school begins. (Maybe they'll even help you move in!)



Looking for more advice?

Our college counselors at Galin Education have visited hundreds of colleges—and have helped students get into them, too. To make an appointment with one of our college counselors, call our offices at (608) 841-1053 or email us at info@galined.com.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHOICES

There are thousands of colleges in the US alone, and there is no realistic way to visit and vet them all. Even if you could visit each and every college, you'd still be hard-pressed to know which is the best for you. However, there are things you can do before your visit, during your visit, and after your visit that will help you make an educated decision about your college plans.

BEFORE THE VISIT

Research schools. Do not go into your visits blindly; often the basic questions you have about a school can be found out online. We recommend using these two tools.

- *College Planner Pro:* At Galin, we love using this tool to research schools. We especially like the functions in the Fiske Guide Profile and the links in the Research Launch Pad.
- *College's Websites:* We also encourage you to reference the college's website, including the pages for the department and major of your interest along with student life and activity pages.

Talk with students and/or alumni of the college. If interested in learning more about a particular school before taking the time to visit, try to reach out to someone who you can talk to casually yet sincerely about the college.

Check requirements and academic fit. Before you visit, you should make sure your student profile fit what the college expects. This is especially true after the exploratory phase, when you need to start paring down your school list.

DURING THE VISIT

Prepare and ask questions. Everything about a college cannot be covered in a tour and info session. However, there are often multiple opportunities to ask questions. For some guidance, check out the last page of this document.

Take notes. Don't worry about writing everything down, but take note of what is important to you. Try to keep track of these notes so you can revisit them later in the process. If visiting with your folks, ask them to take notes as well. Compare your findings at the end of the day. (Pro Tip: Don't take notes on your phone—it may appear rude even if you are sincerely taking notes.)

Take pictures on your phone. At appropriate times (such as on the campus tour or in your own explorations of campus) take some photos that will help you remember this school and differentiate it from others. Here is a fun and informative challenge: take three photos that represent something you like about campus that could not be taken at any other school. If asked to write a supplemental essay about your interest in the school on an application, these photos will help you be specific.

AFTER THE VISIT

Reflect. Take a moment to think about your visit. What were the best parts about the visit? What about this school is unique? What about this school can be found elsewhere? What makes this school a good fit for you, and in what ways is this school not a good fit? Also, assess what level of school this is according to admissions chances. Is this a safety school? A target school? Or a reach school? Do you plan to apply to this school?

Compare. As you visit more schools, you need to continually differentiate them so you can make informed decisions about where you will apply. Where does it fit on your wishlist? How is it a better fit for you than other schools? In what areas do you find the school lacking compared to your other prospective schools?

Continue research. Go back online and dig deeper into the college. Now that you've seen it in person, you can start to scrutinize more purposefully online. Use the notes you took on your visit to guide your investigation.

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHANCES

Present yourself and make the most of your visit. Colleges visits are primarily an opportunity for students to figure out what they want in a school and where they want to apply. However, you can actually increase your chances of being accepted if you play your cards right.

BEFORE THE VISIT

Follow social media of your top schools. It's a simple gesture that shows your interest in a school. Furthermore, through Facebook posts and Tweets, you will gain tidbits of information that will help you understand a school and its culture a little better.

Open emails from the college. It is true: some colleges are tracking this data to gauge your interest. So make sure you at least open the emails you receive from the university. More importantly, though, there may be pertinent information coming through that pipeline, such as helpful guidelines for the application. So read these emails as well!

DURING THE VISIT

Demonstrate interest in a number of ways. When the opportunity arises to demonstrate your interest, take it. Show that you are invested in learning about the school. Sign up for information sessions, register for email updates, and participate in open panels.

Make a human connection with that school. Meet with someone—student, professor, coach, alum, etc.—so you can create a real connection with the school. A kind word from the right reference might make a big difference.

AFTER THE VISIT

Write thank yous to whomever you formally met. This small gesture shows that you are truly invested in a school. It is also a chance to add a personal touch that will resonate with the admissions office.

Make the touchpoint meaningful. If you were able to make a connection while on campus, do not simply compliment and thank the person. Be genuine. Try to build on the connection by opening up a dialogue that can be revisited throughout the application and admissions process.

Articulate and relate your experience and interest in an essay. As mentioned before, you will likely have the opportunity to express your interest in a school in the application itself. Mention the memorable parts of your visit, especially ones that are related to your academic interests.

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT:

To improve their rankings, colleges work to increase the number of applicants, decrease their acceptance rate, and increase their yield. Yield is the number of accepted applicants who matriculate; essentially, they want to make sure the students they accept will actually enroll. One way colleges protect their yield is to measure students' demonstrated interest—that is, colleges track the ways students have shown they are serious about attending. Colleges track demonstrated interest in a number of ways, most commonly by keeping tabs on which students actually have visited, which students have made meaningful connections to faculty and staff on campus, and which students have enthusiastically written about the college in application essays. Students would be wise to make a diligent effort to demonstrate their interest in prospective colleges.

DIFFERENTIATING SCHOOLS

Public Universities and Colleges

Public universities are schools predominantly funded by public means.

Large: 25,000+

UW-Madison, University of Michigan, UCLA

Med-Large: 15,000-25,000

University of Miami-Ohio, Georgia Tech

Medium: 5,000-15,000

University of Vermont, UW-La Crosse

Med-Small: 2,000-5,000

College of William and Mary, UW-Superior

Small: < 2,000

University of Minnesota-Morris, SUNY Maritime

Private Universities and Colleges

Private schools are predominantly funded by private means, sometimes affiliated with religious or cultural communities but not always.

Large: 25,000+

New York University, Brigham Young University

Med-Large: 15,000-25,000

USC, Northeastern University

Medium: 5,000-15,000

Brown University, Northwestern, Tulane University

Med-Small: 2,000-5,000

Dartmouth, Lehigh, St. Olaf, Wesleyan

Small: < 2,000

Amherst College, Pomona College, Reed College

Specialty Schools

A school with a narrow focus, typically around one particular area of study. Usually selective, as they attract the top students in their desired fields.

Visual Arts

CalArts, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Dramatic & Performing Arts

American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Juilliard

Design

RISD, Parsons The New School of Design

STEM-focused

MIT, CalTech, University of Minnesota-Rochester

Musical Performance

Berklee School of Music, McNally Smith

Generous Schools

Schools known to provide substantial merit-based aid.

National Merit

Baylor University, University of Arizona

> 50% Receive Merit Aid

Beloit College, DePaul University, Temple University

30-50% Receive Merit Aid

University of Denver, Lewis & Clark College



QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR VISITS



ACADEMICS

- What calendar system is the school on?
- How many courses do students take per term?
- What is the average class size?
- What classes are taught by full-time professors?
- How often do students meet with advisors?
- What kind of work do students do in each class?
- What majors/minors are available?
- Can I double major (or other dual programs)?
- Does the school award credits for AP courses?
- Is there extra help or tutoring available?
- What are the core course requirements?
- Where are the libraries? What are their hours?
- Are there opportunities to do research?
- Are there internship opportunities for credit?

EXTRACURRICULARS

- What kinds of student groups exist?
- How do students get involved?
- How many students are involved in these groups?
- Are community service opportunities available?
- Does the school offer club-level athletics?
- How many students are involved?

STUDY ABROAD

- What types of study abroad programs are offered?
- How many students participate?
- What term do most students participate?

CAREER SERVICES

- How do students find summer opportunities?
- How does the school help with finding a job?
- What do students do after graduating?
- Do employers come on campus to recruit?
- How do you help students find fellowships?
- Does the school help in applying to grad school?
- Are internships available during the school year?

SECURITY / TRANSPORTATION

- How often are crimes committed on campus?
- Is there transportation within the campus?
- Are there shuttles to malls or cities?
- Are there mass transportation stops nearby?
- What security precautions are taken at night?
- Are the dorms monitored by a security guard?
- Are there cameras on campus?

HOUSING

- What are the housing options?
- How many students are in a dorm room?
- How does the school determine roommates?
- Do the dorms have common spaces?
- Do the dorms sponsor or host activities?
- Where on campus are the dorms located?
- Must all students live on campus?
- If not, where do upperclassmen live?
- What items are not allowed in the dorms?

MEAL PLANS

- Are students required to be on a meal plan?
- What are the meal plan options?
- Are there a la carte options available?
- Is food available in the student union?
- Where are the cafeterias?
- What hours are the cafeterias open?
- Are there any "snack bars" on campus?

SOCIAL LIFE

- What are the dominant social groups?
- Is there Greek Life on campus?
- How many students participate in Greek Life?
- What role do sports play in social life?
- What do students do for fun?
- What are the recreational options on campus?
- Do students go off campus?

Contact Us

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