

## The College Visit

1. Do not schedule more than two schools per day. Give yourself ample time to roam the campus before or after the interview.
2. **BE PUNCTUAL!** Make sure that you have given yourself a cushion of time to accommodate any missed turns, traffic jams, or bad weather. If despite your best efforts, you are still going to be late, call the admissions office to inform them of your situation. Have the phone number with you.
3. Once you have set up a tentative itinerary, call the school. Ask for written confirmation of your appointment and for any current materials if you do not already have them.
4. Be flexible. Schools may not be able to accommodate your ideal schedule, but with some adjustments you should be able to see all the campuses you hope to see.
5. Because the campus visit can play an important part in the admissions decision, particularly at smaller schools, make sure you make the best impression that you can. You are interviewing the school; but they are also looking at you!
6. Do not be afraid to probe with pertinent questions, but at the same time, remember that you also describe yourself by the questions you ask. Be thoughtful and straightforward.
7. Be sure to note the name of the admission officer you meet. Direct future calls/emails to him or her.
8. Read the campus newspaper to discover the burning school issues.
9. Scan the bulletin boards and kiosks for announcements and for messages; these sorts of communications reveal a great deal about the tone of the school.
10. Talk with students on your own without parents or school personnel. Their answers are often the most candid. The way you are received will also give some indication of the friendliness of the community.
11. Visit the dorms. Sample the food in the cafeteria. Are the students respectful of the school and its facilities? Does the menu have a variety of offerings? Can you live comfortably?
12. Be aware of walking distances. Is it easy to get around campus?
13. Visit classes. Speak with professors. Browse the bookstore, check out labs, visit athletic facilities, etc. Go sit alone in the student center.
14. Spend the night in the dorms if possible.