COLLEGE TOUR CHECKLIST

College tours are a great way to learn more about a college no matter what point in the application process you are in. However, discovering a new campus can be as confusing as it is fun. Make sure you're prepared so that you can enjoy this exciting stage of your college search!

BEFORE YOUR TOUR



LOCATION AND CAMPUS

- **Campus setting** can tell a lot about a college's culture. Is it an urban campus, or is it more residential?
- Where do students live on campus? Some commuter schools have limited housing, and some colleges only offer apartments to students.



DISTANCE FROM HOME

- How will you get home? Will you have to fly, or is there a bus route that you can take? Knowing how often you can come home sets realistic expectations before college starts.
- How many students are commuters?
 Commuter campuses tend to have lots of parking available—something to keep in mind if you are planning on bringing a car.



PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

- Stats about the school can be helpful in recognizing where different opportunities can be found on campus.
- What programs are available? Not every college has every major, so check and see what's available. You may even learn about a program that you did not know existed.



ACCEPTANCE STATS

- **Does the college require exam scores?** Some colleges offer holistic, test-optional applications.
- If you are interested in joining extracurriculars, be sure to ask your Tour Guide about it! Chances are they themselves are involved on campus.

DURING YOUR TOUR



SEE HOUSING OPTIONS

- Should I stay in a dorm or apartment? Some universities and colleges do not allow freshmen to live off-campus during their first year.
- **Proximity to classes** is good to know. Certain dorms or apartments may be closer to the building where your classes are.



VISIT FACILITIES

- **The dining hall** is a central location on most campuses. Where else nearby can you get food if the hall is closed?
- **The Library** is another good resource to ask about. Visiting them during the school year can give you an idea about student study habits.
- Get familiar with the **classrooms** where you will be taking classes. They should be clean, accessible, and easy to find.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Read flyers/posters that are displayed around campus. These can give you an idea of what campus happenings are common.
- Ask students about their involvement and learn about what organizations or groups they enjoy.



TALK TO STUDENTS

- Meet people on campus! You never know who you might be talking to, so stay open minded and try to gain insight on the campus' culture.
- Ask students about their likes/dislikes.
 Students are usually very open to express concerns that they have. But they might also point you to a location on campus that you did not get a chance to visit on your tour.

AFTER YOUR TOUR



FINANCIAL AID

- Know how to contact the financial aid office for any questions that you may have. They will be your experts when it comes time to apply.
- Scholarships are available at almost every financial aid office! Be sure to ask what scholarships are currently open to new students.
- **Discounts on Rent** can sometimes be offered to students living at apartments close to campus.



READ BLOGS/WEBSITES

- **College Review Sites** such as Colleges of Distinction can help you narrow down your choices when it comes to picking a school.
- **Student Blogs** can give another layer of insight about what choices you can make when it comes to college.
- YouTube Videos help set up a visual or give you the opportunity to see part of campus that you may have not had time to visit personally while on tour.



FOLLOW UP

- Share Contact Info with anyone you met on campus. Having a touchpoint on campus can alleviate the stress of unanswered questions later.
- Thank College Staff that you spoke with. It will help you stand out later on when applying.
- **Reconnect Later** via email or phone call to show that you appreciated the time and effort they put forth to help you on your college journey.



PLAN AHEAD

- Note Upcoming Deadlines as they arrive. Know if there are programs outside of the normal application that you might be interested in.
- Plan Your Application Process sooner than later. If there are letters of recommendation that you will be needing or outside resources, be sure to make arrangements as soon as possible.

•
•