

Campus Visit Checklist

Make the Most of the Trip

Visiting a campus gives your child a sense of what that college — and life for its students — is like. This can make a difference when your child is deciding whether the college is a good fit.

When planning trips, make sure to allow enough time to explore all aspects of the college as fully as possible. Encourage your child to wander alone around the campus and to imagine being a student there.

Also, be sure to let your child take the lead when setting up the visit and asking questions. Although it's tempting to help, your child needs to take on this responsibility.

Here are some things your child can do while on a campus visit.

Admission and Academics

Your child should find out how to apply to the college, and whether the college supports majors and subjects of interest. Give your child these suggestions:

- Participate in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you.
- Meet a professor in your chosen major or in a subject area that you may want to pursue.
- Get business cards and the names of people you meet for future contacts.

Campus Life

Daily life has a big effect on your child's happiness — and success — at a college. Your child can get a feel for student life and the college setting with this checklist:

- Take a campus tour.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- Talk to the coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Plan an overnight with a student.
- Ask to see the residence hall where most freshmen live.
- Visit the cafeteria, fitness center, library, bookstore and other campus facilities.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

Campus Media

Your child can tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds. Here are some ideas:

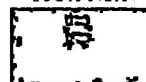
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- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Review other student publications — department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Browse through campus blogs.

Insight from Current Students

Being on campus gives your child a wonderful chance to talk to the students who currently go to that college. Your child can ask them questions like these to see what their experience is:

- What are the best reasons to go here?
- What do you do on weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do students complain about most?

For more information, check out *Campus Visits and College Interviews* by Zola Dincin Schneider, which is available [in the online store](#).