

Visiting colleges is a great way to get a feel for what college is like. And when the time comes, it can help you decide if a specific college is right for you. Exploring campuses is well worth your while. You don't have to travel far — *visiting local colleges is just as valuable!*

Arrange a Visit

All colleges have admission offices that can help you plan your visit. Your high school may organize group tours of nearby colleges. And you can plan your own informal visit to a college campus. Take these important first steps:

Contact the college admission office through the college's website or by email or phone to get details and make a reservation.

Schedule time to be on your own. Walk around the public areas of the college and don't be shy about asking students questions.

What to Expect

Campus visits can range from a quick hour to an overnight stay, from a casual guided tour to a formal presentation. Be sure to ask how long the whole visit will take so you can be prepared.

Most campus visits will include the following:

An information session: An admission representative talks to you or your group about the college before the campus tour.

A campus tour: These are usually led by current students. You'll see the main parts of the campus and have a chance to ask questions.

At many colleges, you can also arrange to do the following: Attend a class, Meet with a professor, Meet with an admission officer, Meet with a financial aid officer, Attend a club meeting or a sports practice session, Eat in the dining hall, & Spend the night in a dorm.

Get Ready

Before your visit, you should get prepared:

Explore the college's official website and review any materials the college has sent you. This will help you come up with questions specific to that college.

Make a list of questions to ask both staff and students. You can use the Campus Visit Checklist as a starting point.

Get a map of the college campus and check where the admission office is. This will help ensure that you're on time for your visit.