



5 Tips on How to Make the Most Out of Your College Visit

College visits are undoubtedly one of more enjoyable parts of the college selection process. They are basically a smorgasbord of some of the best experiences that colleges have to offer. However, since they are a commitment of time and resources, we put together a few tips on how to make the most out of your visit. After all, you need more to show from your college visits than a pile of impressive swag from the university gift stores.

1 Make a List of College Priorities and Rate Each School

If you are going on a bunch of college visits, schools might tend to blur together a bit. So, before you go make a list of your priorities and rate each school. For example, if you really want a school to have nice dorm rooms, make note of which ones were the most impressive. Plus be sure to take a few photos on your phone to make sure you have a visual aid for later.

2 Talk to Students Who Aren't Tour Guides

Tour guides are paid to make colleges and universities look good. These students are typically the ones that drank the Kool-Aid and keep coming back for more. So, make sure to talk to some average students and pick their brains about the school you are visiting.

3 Read the Student Newspaper

Reading the students newspaper is a great way to gain a sense of what is going on around campus and what kinds of issues the students typically care about. It's also a good way to read about safety concerns on campus.

4 Sit in on Classes

One of the best things about colleges is being able to take classes that really interest you. Make sure to check out the college class schedule and sit in on a class that you think that you might want to take if you were to attend the school. The most important thing is not to be nervous about sitting in on a college class. You aren't going to be expected to answer any of the professor's questions. You are just there to observe and enjoy.

5 Meet with Admissions Officers and Sent Follow Notes

It's always important to meet with the Admissions Office at a prospective school so that they can answer more of your questions, like what they are looking for in a potential student. Also, keep in mind that these people are the gate keepers. So, when you get back home MAKE SURE you send them a handwritten note, thanking them for their time. Also, another pro tip is to reach out to the admissions team if you get waitlisted to express to them your desire to attend their specific college or university. Extra gestures like these can tip the scale in your favor.

