



Tips for In-Person Campus Visits

There are many ways to find out about a college: websites, brochures and college fairs; but **there is no substitute for seeing the campus yourself**. While visiting every campus on your prospective list before you apply in the fall of Senior Year may not be feasible, we encourage families to get on to some campuses, to help students understand what they are (and are not) looking for in a college campus.

If you've never visited a college campus & don't know where to start, we have some suggestions! There are a large number of campuses within 2 hours of Naperville, which can be used as a gateway to learning what traits you do/do not want in a prospective campus. Here are some options, to at least begin the process of learning what "type" of campus you, the student, prefer:

- **Urban Setting:** Univ. of Illinois, Chicago; DePaul Univ.; Loyola Univ.; Marquette Univ. (WI)
- **Suburban Setting:** North Central College; Benedictine Univ.; Aurora Univ.; Lewis Univ.
- **College Town Setting:** Northern Illinois Univ.; Illinois State Univ.; Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

If you have the opportunity to visit a campus, please consider the following:

Before you go:

- ☐ Call the Admissions Office in advance, and tell them the date/time you would like to visit.
- ☐ Inquire about attending an information session, visiting classes, or talking with the faculty.
- ☐ If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can assist with arrangements.
- ☐ Research the college using resources in the Postsecondary Advising & Resource Center (The **PARC**)
- ☐ Make a list of questions you want answered

While you are on campus:

- ☐ Talk to as many students as possible
- ☐ Take a tour of the campus
- ☐ Sit in on a class
- ☐ Have a meal in the cafeteria
- ☐ Pick-up copies of the college newspaper/magazine

Questions to ask during your visit

- ☐ Are campus jobs readily available?
- ☐ Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
- ☐ How many hours a week do you typically study?
- ☐ What do you like most about this college/university? What do you like least?
- ☐ Are the athletic facilities open to all students, or just to athletes?
- ☐ Do students typically go home on the weekends?
- ☐ What's available nearby (stores, movie theater, restaurants, etc.)?
- ☐ Ask yourself – Can I see myself here with these people?

Keeping Track of your Campus Visits

Click [Copy of College Ratings Scale](#) for your own copy of the College Rating Scale that will allow you to organize & compare schools that you're interested in.