College Campus Visits

As you visit college campuses across the country, it’s important to make the most of your time on each campus. Please see below for our best practices, suggested activities and great questions to ask. Keep in mind that you don’t need to do all of these things on every campus! Finally, remember that the student owns this process. It’s your college search and you should take the lead on these visits. As always, text us if you have any questions prior to or while on your visit! Scott: 816-916-7835 // Lizzi: 785-209-4106

Best Practices

• Schedule visits at least 10-15 days in advance. Many have visit scheduling on their website or a phone number to call.
• Do not schedule more than 2 schools in 1 day to ensure you are not rushed and can give each the attention it deserves.
• Be punctual. Know where you’re going (specific building/room number) and arrive 10-15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. If you are going to be late, call the Admissions Office and let them know.
• Try your best to visit while classes are in session. You’ll have a better visit experience when campus is “alive.”
• Go on the campus tour and stand in the front if you can. When it’s over, venture out on your own!
• If possible, introduce yourself to the KC-area representative. If you don’t know who this is, e-mail or text us!
• Instead of asking “How is your XYZ Major/Department?” ask, “What can you tell me about XYZ Major/Department?”
• Immediately following each visit, keep a record of the elements of the school you liked/disliked, general thoughts, what was distinctive about the school. This will help to differentiate campuses when you return home.
• Save the best for last! Visit your “dream school” after you have a few visits under your belt and aren’t a rookie visitor.
• Don’t let bad weather or special circumstances (rainy day, you didn’t feel well, etc.) keep you from having a positive outlook on a school. Similarly, don’t let one “bad tour guide” determine your entire opinion of a school.
• Know what is important to you and your family and make sure you find answers to your questions before you leave!
• Follow-up! If you had an exceptional experience or met with someone very helpful, get their contact information and send them a thank-you note or e-mail.

Activities

• Hang out on the “Quad” or in the Student Center or Library. You could be spending a lot of time in these places.
• Go to a class or visit your academic department’s offices. If you are undecided, ask to speak with a freshman advisor.
• Visit the dorms/on-campus housing and try to picture yourself there...it could be your home away from home.
• Eat in the Dining Hall. You’ll be surprised by how great University food is these days and it’s a great “hub” for student life.
• Locate the Student Health Center/Services. Should you get sick while at school, this is where you will go.
• Size-up the Recreation Center and Athletic facilities, especially if you intend to workout/participate in intramurals.
• Talk to current students other than your tour guide! Ask them why they chose this school or what they love most.
• Find a student newspaper and read the headlines and opinion pieces. This will give you amazing insight into the campus culture and climate.
• Visit any offices of importance to you: Financial Aid, Study Abroad, Student Activities, Religious Center, Greek Life, etc.

Questions to ask of Admissions Staff or Current Students

• How would you describe a typical student? What is the profile of an admitted student?
• How much time do students in XYZ major spend studying?
• Why did you choose to attend here? Work here?
• What types of employers/companies recruit on campus?
• Are the classes here lecture-based or discussion-based? Are they often taught by professors or teaching assistants?
• How satisfied are you with your academic advising?
• What does research look like for undergraduate students? Will I be able to collaborate with professors on their research?
• What are/were you involved in on campus? What percentage of the student body participates in Greek Life?
• What is it like to be a first-semester freshman here?
• What is your favorite place on campus to study? Favorite place to socialize? Favorite place to eat?
• If you could change one thing (not parking or weather!), what would it be? What do you never want change?
• What traditions does this school have? What is your most memorable experience as a student here?
• What kinds of hands-on or practical experiences have you had in and outside of the classroom? Internships?
• What is there to do on the weekends? Do most students stay on campus or go home?