Tips on How to Make the Most of Your College Campus Visit

Enhance your campus visit by asking plenty of questions of both the admissions staff and current students. Don't be shy about sharing your questions and concerns. Take a notebook with you to record your impressions. If you are taking a tour of the campus, try to position yourself toward the front of the group where it is easier to hear the tour guide and ask questions. Some areas to consider include:

**Campus Environment:** How do the students appear? Are they friendly? Is the campus aesthetically pleasing? What is the surrounding neighborhood like? How is campus security? Would it be safe for jogging, for example? Are there drug stores nearby for convenience items? Video stores? What is the town like? Large, small, urban, rural? What type of entertainment and activities are available?

**Core Curriculum:** If one exists, how rigid/flexible is it? Is there a foreign language requirement? Math requirement? Are credits easily transferable if you decide to go to another college?

**Housing:** What percentage of students live on campus? Is housing guaranteed for four years? Are single rooms available? Do you have to live in the dorms and for how long? Is there a lounge area with a TV? Are there other options besides the dorms? Is there a lot of partying in the dorms? Quiet dorms? How do you solve problems with students in the dorms? Is a dorm counselor on each floor? Are appliances allowed in the rooms? Food? Small kitchens for student use? Laundry facilities and what it costs? Bathroom sharing? Are there internet hook-ups in the rooms and what does it cost? Are computers available in the dorm? Is there room for a car or bike? Are the dorms locked at night?

**Social Life:** Are there fraternities and sororities? How important are they? Do students live in dorms or Greek houses? What options and social events/activities are available for weekends, assuming you aren’t planning to come home on a regular basis? Are there intramural sports? What type of clubs are available?

**Health Services:** Is there a nurse/doctor on duty? Is health insurance available? Is there a health center? How is it staffed? Cost?

**Campus Issues:** Pick up a copy of the student newspaper to see what the current issues and concerns are. Be prepared for freedom of the press.

**Academic Offerings:** What are the strongest/most popular majors? If you have decided on an area of study, ask how strong the department is. Can you visit the department coordinator? Can you visit a class? How many credit hours does a typical freshman take? Are undergraduate classes taught by T.A.s (teaching assistants)? What is the average class size?

**Sports/Athletic Facilities:** Which NCAA, NAIA division does the school participate in? How are the indoor facilities (unless you are looking at sunny, warm locations)? Make an appointment to talk to a coach if you are interested in a particular sport. What scholarships are available?

**Campus Diversity:** If the school is affiliated with a particular religion, to what extent is that a pervasive influence on campus? If yes, are chapel services required or optional? Are religion courses required? Do they have ethnic or gender diversity groups? Study abroad programs?

**Facilities:** How up-to-date are the classrooms and laboratories? To what extent do underclassmen have access to the facilities? What are the library hours? Cafeteria hours? Admission hours? Computer labs? Is there a gym or a pool available for workouts?

**Financial Aid:** What percentage of students receive financial aid of those who apply for it? Work study? Are there any hidden costs? Have you spoken to the college financial aid office? Are scholarship upgrades available? Loan programs?

**Career Center Services:** How effective is the career center in terms of helping seniors with job placements? Are job placement interviews held on campus with major corporations, etc? Is there a job board with on and off campus job postings? Are student internships available? Summer employment opportunities?