



COLLEGE VISIT NOTES

When you leave campus, make sure you can answer these questions:

Size

- How many undergraduate students attend this college? How many graduate students?
- How long would it take to walk from one side of campus to the other?
- Would the size of this college help you learn?
- Will you feel comfortable at a college this size?

Academic Environment

- How rigorous are the classes? How much time will you spend outside of class studying?
- Is the student body highly intellectual? Are students likely to discuss the content of their classes outside of class, are they more focused on socializing or is it a mix?
- What is the average class size?
- Are most classes lecture based or discussion based?
- Will you be able to access internships and work experiences?
- Will you have the freedom to choose your courses or is the curriculum prescribed?
- Does the availability of academic support (writing center, tutors) meet your needs?
- Is there an emphasis on hands-on learning?
- Does the college focus on learning through solving real world problems?
- How many classes will you take each semester?
- How is the academic calendar organized (two semesters, trimester or 4-1-4)?
- For students who choose to study abroad, where can they go?
- Does the college have overseas branches?
- Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?
- How is your academic advisor assigned? How often do students meet with their advisors?
- Can students double major?
- When do you have to declare your major?
- Does your advisor change when you declare your major?
- Does this college have the major you would like to study?
- What proportion of classes are taught by TAs and graduate students vs. full time faculty with terminal degrees in their field?

- Is there an honors program or college? What are the requirements and how are the students selected?
- Which employers come to campus to recruit students?

Students

- What is the vibe on campus? Can you see yourself fitting in and feeling comfortable and happy?
- How would you describe the students at this college?
- What do students like to do at this school on weekends?
- Do students live on campus all four years?
- Do students mostly socialize on campus or off?
- Are spectator sports and school spirit an important part of campus life?
- Is there Greek life?
- Is the student body politically and environmentally active? Is it a liberal, conservative or mixed student body?
- What type of sports can you participate in? Varsity? Intramurals? Club teams?
- If you had a chance to eat in the dining hall (highly recommended), was the food tasty?
- Will you feel safe on campus?
- What style dorms are available? Did they meet your expectations?
- Is this campus LGBTQ friendly?
- How diverse is the student body?
- What clubs would you join if you attended this college?
- What leadership opportunities are available?
- Is this college religiously affiliated?
- Is your religion represented on campus in a way you feel comfortable?
- Is there a significant commuter population?

Location

- Is this college in an urban, rural or suburban environment?
- How far from home is this college?
- How often would you travel home?
- Can students have cars on campus?

Admissions

- What is the average GPA of last year's admitted students?
- What are the average standardized test scores?
- Is this college test optional?
- How likely are you to be admitted?
- What application does the college use?
- Does the college offer early decision and early action? What percentage of students are admitted under these application deadlines?

- When is your application due?
- What is this college looking for in an applicant? (Tip: Write down the key words mentioned at the information session so that you can make sure your application demonstrates that you are a good fit for this institution.)

Financial Aid

- Does this college meet 100% of demonstrated need?
- What are the requirements for merit scholarships?
- Is there a separate application to be considered for scholarships?
- Does the college require the CSS Profile to apply for financial aid?
- What is financial aid application deadline?

Your impressions

- In what ways is this college a match for you?
- What do you like about this college?
- What are some negative features of this college?