**The College Visit**

College:

Date of Visit:

Whether you are going on an official tour of campus with a guide or just wandering around campus on your own, here are some questions you can ask of students, college admissions officers and faculty:

Why do students select this college?

What is the best thing about this college?

What is the biggest part of social life here? Is it the outdoors? Fraternities and sororities? Athletics? Small group discussions?

What do students complain about most?

What kind of students thrive here and who are less successful/satisfied?

How active is the social life?

What type of student is happiest?

What are some student traditions?

How active is the college in helping students plan their careers?

What happens here on weekends? Do students stay on campus?

How comfortable will I feel walking through the campus alone at night?

Do students know one or two professors well enough to ask them for a work or graduate school recommendation?

Has the college lived up to your expectations?

When did you last meet individually with your professor?

What is your balance of time between academics and social life?

How are roommates chosen?

**College Visit Do’s and Don’ts:**

* Do talk to students on every campus.
* Do follow up your visit with a thank-you note.
* Do analyze the whole school.
* Do take pictures.
* Do read copies of the student newspaper.
* Do look at bulletin boards and other postings. What’s happening on campus? Do these activities interest you?
* Do walk or drive around the community surrounding the college.
* Do check out the public transportation system.
* Do consider the ease getting to and from campus. Are there direct flights?
* Don’t evaluate the school on the basis of a visit with one student.
* Don’t make snap judgments.
* Don’t judge a college solely on your impression of the tour guide.
* Don’t let the weather on the day of the visit totally influence your impression.
* Don’t let perceived quality or academic reputation totally affect you.
* Don’t judge the college solely on impressions made during your visit. Remember what you have read and heard about the college before you set foot on campus.

**Overall Thoughts on the College**

After your visit, write down your overall thoughts of the campus and college in general to help you remember and compare to others later.

What stands out in the environment/location of the school?

Campus setting and surrounding community description:

What stands out academically?

What are the housing options?

What are the food options?

Describe the student body:

What stands out about the social life and extracurricular activities? What traditions or routines would you participate in?

What services are available (career advising, etc.)?

Who will be happiest here?

What would make a student unhappy here?