

College Visits

Campus visits are a valuable way to identify what is important to you in a college or university. If you are early in the college search process, it is helpful to compare a small, mid-sized and large school to get a sense of which educational setting fits your learning style. You may also wish to look at urban, suburban or rural settings. Listed below are suggested trips that will highlight differences in size and setting:

Nearby Illinois trip options:

- 1) Elmhurst College (Small & suburban), Loyola University (Mid-sized & urban) and The University of Illinois at Chicago (Large & urban)
- 2) North Central College (Small & suburban), The University of Chicago (Mid-sized & urban), Northern Illinois University (Large & Rural)
- 3) Lake Forest College (Small & suburban), Northwestern University (Mid-sized & suburban), and DePaul University (Large & Urban)

Illinois trip options, a little further away:

- 1) Knox College (Small & rural), Western Illinois University (Large & rural), and Bradley (Mid-sized & urban),
- 2) Illinois Wesleyan University (Small & suburban), Illinois State University (Large & suburban) and Millikin (Small & suburban)
- 3) The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Large & rural), Lewis University (Mid-sized & rural) and Olivet Nazarene (Small & rural)

Out-of-state trip options:

- 1) Notre Dame University (Mid-sized & suburban), Kalamazoo College (Small & suburban), and the University of Michigan (Large & suburban)
- 2) Hope College (Mid-sized & suburban), Valparaiso (Mid-sized & suburban), and Michigan State (Large & suburban)
- 3) DePauw University (Mid-sized & rural), Butler University (Mid-sized & suburban), and either Purdue or Indiana University at Bloomington (Large & suburban)
- 4) Wittenberg University (Small & suburban), Xavier (Mid-sized & urban) and Miami University (Large & suburban)
- 5) Beloit College (Small & suburban), Marquette University (Mid-sized & urban), and the University of Wisconsin (Large & urban)
- 6) Coe College or Grinnell College (Small & rural), Drake University (Mid-sized & urban), and the University of Iowa (Large & urban)
- 7) Washington University or Saint Louis University (Mid-sized & urban), and the University of Missouri in Columbia (Large & suburban)

Important: You should call each school 1 – 2 weeks before your visit to schedule a tour, information session or classroom visit. Try to schedule a visit when students are on campus rather than on vacations. JHHS will be granted an excused absence for college visits, provided parents call in advance to notify our school of the absence and return with evidence of their visit, such as admissions material or a business card of the admissions office.

College Visits – Questions to ask



General Information

- How many students at this school?
- What is your smallest class size? The largest?
- Do graduate students teach undergraduates?
- What percentage of tenured faculty members teach freshmen courses?
- Do faculty maintain office hours? How easy is it to see a professor for help?
- What academic support services are available? (Writing, language or learning labs?)
- Are certain classes hard to get into? What percentage of students graduate in 4 years? 5 years?
- What percent of students go on to graduate school? What percent of students have jobs within 6 months of graduation? Is there a career center and what services does it offer?

Student Life

- What percent of your students are housed on campus? Live off campus? At home?
- Are your dorms co-ed? By floor? By wing? Are the bathrooms also co-ed?
- How are roommates chosen? Can I room with a friend?
- Do students tend to stay on campus during the weekends? What is there to do on campus on weekends?
- Is there public transportation in the area? Is it possible to get by without a car?
- Are there fraternities/sororities? What percent of students participate in Greek life?
- Are your favorite extracurricular activities offered on campus? Is it easy to participate?
- Where are the cafeterias located?
- How is the cafeteria food?
- How many meals a week are included in the meal plans? What about eating between meals?
- Are special diets available, such as vegetarian, vegan, or kosher diets?

Financial Aid

- Will applying for financial aid affect the admissions decision? Wait list decisions?
- What is the total estimated cost for next year including tuition, room, board, fees, books and travel?
- What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines? What forms must be filed?
- How do the financial aid procedures differ with early decision applications?
- What scholarships are available?
- Are there installment plans or other financing options?

Other questions

- What differentiates your school from similar schools?
- What personal qualities do students here tend to have?
- What are the key issues on campus?
- What steps is the school taking to make the campus safe?
- If you could change something about this school, what would you change?

College Comparison Worksheet

Comparative Criteria	Campus 1	Campus 2	Campus 3
COLLEGE NAME			
LOCATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location & size of nearest city • Transportation required (Air, train, bus, car) 			
ENVIRONMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting (urban, rural) • Co-ed, male, female • Enrollment • Religious affiliation 			
ACADEMICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majors that interest you • Classes taught by professors or teaching assistants • Largest class size • Typical class size • Academic resources available • Percent of returning freshmen • Graduation rate 			
ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs, organizations • Varsity, club, intramural sports • Typical weekend activities 			
HOUSING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence hall availability • Residence hall requirement • Room types and sizes • Food Plan • Percent of students living on campus 			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines • Tests required • Average test scores, GPA • Required application materials 			
SELECTIVITY RATING FOR YOU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety, Good Fit, Reach 			
COLLEGE EXPENSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition, room & board • Estimated total budget • Application fee & deposit 			
FINANCIAL AID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines • Required forms • % of students receiving aid • Scholarships available 			
IMPRESSIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal reaction • Rank/Order of Preference 			