



Touring Colleges

October 7, 2019

October 9, 2019



An Overview of this presentation

- Application “mantra”
- Planning a trip/college visit
- After the visit – next steps!
- Five important tips



Application/admissions “mantra”

- For all of our students, let this be your “mantra.” You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Focus as much on “going” to the college as you will focus on “getting in.”
- As a counseling staff, we plan to work with students in the college search process to help them find the best matches!!
What places will be a great fit?



Planning a trip/college visit

- Begin with the question: “Why would I want to attend this college?” The reasons will help you determine whether it’s worth a visit.
- Put together a trip itinerary, which includes the time of the tour, parking information, and distance from the hotel.
- Remember that “less is more” – no more than two colleges in one day. It’s always better to spend quality time on a campus, rather than trying to fit in an extra college.
- Check out the admission web site for directions/instructions on how to register for a campus visit.



Planning a trip/college visit

A sample of college admission websites for visiting the campus:

<https://www.chapman.edu/admission/undergraduate/visit/index.aspx>

<https://www.admissions.iastate.edu/visit/>

<https://gustavus.edu/admission/visit/>



Planning a trip/college visit

A college visit might include:

- An information session
- A campus tour, led by a current student
- Attending a class
- Meeting with a professor, or coach, or program director
- Meeting with an admission officer and/or financial aid officer
- Attending a club meeting or a sports practice or a music lesson
- Eating in the dining hall
- Casual conversations with students and college employees
- Touring the neighborhood, within proximity to the college campus



Planning a trip/college visit

- Put together a list of “important things” for each college.
- During the tour/visit, take notes. Use your phone, if needed, to capture some thoughts.
- Record your “gut reactions” to the place – can you picture yourself being there as a student?
- Consider the time of the year you are visiting – what will it be like in another season?
- If you meet with an admissions rep, get their business card so that you can send a “thank you” note.



After the visit/tour

- Before you leave the college, get something to eat – and talk to at least one person who doesn't work in admissions.
- As soon as possible, write notes about your campus experience. What did you like? Dislike? Devise a rating scale.
- Use social media to continue your research through videos and blogs.
- Send a follow-up note of thanks, if you met with someone individually.



Five important tips

- Figure out the family “politics” as soon as possible. Who’s going on this trip?
- Wear comfortable clothes, and (especially) comfortable shoes.
- Go “off the beaten track” on a campus visit. And then, read blogs about the college/university to see if your impressions are shared by others.
- If needed, always visit the financial aid office – to learn more about how they meet need. And to learn more about student loan indebtedness.
- Have you been able to “size up” the culture of the place? That’s a key question!



What if you can't visit/tour a college?

- Visit online – many colleges have a virtual tour

<https://www.youvisit.com>

<http://www.ecampustours.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/>

- Look at the college's web site to view/review videos
- Visit a “like minded college,” in this area, an institution that is similar to the college you are really interested in.
- Visit with the college admission rep here at MHS
- Seek out the opinion/analysis of a friend who has visited



A final word

- For some students, their best opportunity to visit a college campus will come in March/April of the senior year – and that's okay!
- Our goal in this process – to help each student find the best match possible for their post-secondary experience!

Phillip Trout
College Counselor
Minnetonka High School
952-401-5746
collegeguy@minnetonkaschools.org
Twitter: @MHSCollegeguy

10-7-19