college tour checklist

visiting a college campus can help your student get a better feel for what life is like at college. because there is a lot to consider, it can be overwhelming. your student may not be thinking about some of the critical questions that will help him/her make their decision. use this guide to help compare colleges with your student and decide which is the best fit for him/her. remember this is your student’s visit and ultimately his/her decision.

before your tour

☐ browse the school’s website, campus blogs, and social media pages.
☐ prepare any questions you have ahead of time.
☐ chat with your student about what they want in a school and any questions in advance.

during your tour

☐ take pictures to remember what things look like and to jog your memory as you are comparing schools later.
☐ chat with someone in the admissions office.
☐ chat with someone in the financial aid office.
☐ visit the career center.
☐ get the names and business cards of people you meet, so you can contact them later if you have questions.
☐ walk or drive around the surrounding neighborhood/off-campus housing.
☐ take notes!

after your tour

☐ sit down with your student and review notes.
☐ reach out to the people you spoke with on the tour with any follow-up questions.
☐ chat with your student about his/her financial plan.
QUESTIONS TO ASK ON YOUR TOUR

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS
• What are your housing policies?
• What should students bring with them to college?
• Do most students use Apple, PC products, or a mixture?
• Are there any tutoring opportunities?
• Are there any grocery shopping options both on and off campus?
• How do students get around campus (cars, bikes, walking, mopeds, etc.)?
• What is parking like on campus?
• What percentage of the student population lives on campus?
• Are professors accessible outside of classroom hours?
• In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?
• Are there visit days for parents?
• Do you encourage community service?
• Are there opportunities for independent study?

ASK ADMISSIONS
• What is the student retention rate?
• How diverse is the campus?
• Are there early admissions/early action programs?
• Are there honors courses?
• How do AP credits transfer?
• Do you recognize credit transfers?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
• What information do you require besides the FAFSA?
• Are there scholarship opportunities?
• Are there other financial aid programs?
• Are tuition rates fixed?

ASK THE CAREER CENTER
• How do students pursue internship opportunities?
• Are there on-campus employment opportunities?
• What percentage of students get jobs right out of school?
• Are there career fairs?
• How do you help students prepare for employment after graduation?