COLLEGE TOUR CHECKLIST

It might seem impossible to envision yourself attending a college without getting to tour its campus. But taking a tour is just one way to help you decide where to go to college. When visiting campuses isn’t a good option, use this checklist to virtually experience each campus and help make your decision.

- **TAKE AND EXPAND A VIRTUAL TOUR**

  Many colleges have technology that allows you to tour campus virtually. Others offer videos and interactive maps. Beyond the official tours, there are other ways to expand your perspective. Jump on Google Maps and check out the surrounding neighborhood. Treat it like you’re planning a vacation. Are there restaurants, music venues, coffee shops and stores nearby? If you’re an avid runner, are there trails and paths that you can explore?

- **CHAT WITH CURRENT STUDENTS**

  Talking with current students is a great way to get a sense of how you’ll fit in on campus. Not only will they have perspectives to share on classes, they’re the best group to ask your equally important questions about student life, athletics, organizations and other aspects of the college experience. Contact the admissions department at each college to connect with current students.

- **JOIN AN ONLINE CLASS**

  With all classes temporarily online, you can ask the admissions department to virtually sit in on a class so you can experience what it’s like. This is your best chance to get a sneak peek at your major. And even if you’re undecided, joining an online class will give you a first-hand idea of discussions, assignments and lecture styles at that school.
**COLLEGE TOUR CHECKLIST (CONTINUED)**

- **SPEAK WITH A PROFESSOR**
  
  Another important way to get a feel for academic life at a particular college is to virtually meet with a professor. They can talk to you about the program you’re interested in, how to best support your goals and interests or even help you choose a direction if you’re undecided.

  Professors are not only good sources for academic information, you can also use the opportunity to ask them about their favorite things on campus, why they chose to teach at that particular college and more.

- **DO THOROUGH ONLINE RESEARCH**

  Now more than ever, it’s important to carefully read through a college’s website. Take your time researching programs offered, internship opportunities, extracurricular activities and organizations that align with your interests and goals.

  Try to take in as much information as possible by going beyond the college’s official site. Use Google to find out if there are student-run blogs, news articles or ranking websites that might broaden your perspective on the college.

- **CHECK OUT THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS**

  Social media offers yet another way to interact with your college of choice. Take a look at what they’re posting, then go beyond their main Twitter, Instagram or Facebook pages. Do they have accounts dedicated to your interests and passions? Can you look at hashtags or location tags to see what their students are posting about?

- **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHER ONLINE OFFERINGS**

  Be sure to also schedule virtual meetings with admissions counselors or financial aid officers. During those meetings, you can find out if they are offering any online panels, webinars or live discussions that you can join.

**AFTER YOUR VIRTUAL VISIT**

- Sit down with your parent(s) or support person and review notes.
- Reach out to the people you spoke with on the tour with any follow-up questions.
- Chat with your parent(s) about your financial plan.
- Decide which colleges you want to apply to.
### ASK STUDENTS/ADMISSIONS

- What do you do in your free time?
- Are there any study abroad opportunities?
- Do most students have their own laptops or use on-campus computer labs?
- Are there any grocery shopping options both on and off campus?
- How do students get around campus (cars, bikes, walking, mopeds, etc.)?
- How diverse is the campus?
- Are there meal plans offered?
- What is the process like to declare or change your major?
- What is the average class size?
- How are roommates assigned?
- Are online classes typically offered? Have you taken any?
- Are students usually able to take their first-choice courses?
- How many hours of class do students typically have each week?
- How much homework do you have to do outside of class?
- Where are the best places to study on campus?
- Is there a writing center to help with essays and research papers?
- Are academic advisors accessible and effective?
- Are there tutoring services available on campus?
- What are some of the most popular extracurriculars and why?
- What clubs or other opportunities for community service exist?
- Do sports play a large role on campus?
- Are there any intramural sports opportunities or exercise classes?
- What percentage of the student population lives on campus?
- What do you wish you had known going into freshman year?
- What do you wish you had asked on a campus tour?
- What’s a typical weekday like for you?
- What surprised you about campus life here?
- What’s your favorite spot you’ve discovered on campus since arriving?

### ASK A PROFESSOR

- How do you help students prepare for employment after graduation?
- How do students pursue internship opportunities?
- What are the characteristics of students who are successful in your program?
- Do professors have regular office hours? What types of issues do students bring to you during those times?
- Why do you like teaching at this college?
- What’s your favorite class to teach?
- Where’s your favorite place on campus?