

TIPS FOR A BETTER COLLEGE VISIT

College-bound juniors should plan to visit the schools in which they are interested before the time comes to apply. A good campus visit can be a deciding factor in the process of choosing the right school. Spring of junior year and the summer before senior year begins are two of the best times for these visits. The most important thing to remember when planning these trips is to call the college ahead of time for an appointment.

Most colleges are only too glad to help you make arrangements for a campus visit. They will set up an appointment with an admissions counselor, financial aid counselor and the chairman of the department to which you will apply. In some cases, they will provide overnight accommodations and/or a meal, but they need prior notice. Duquesne University published the following tips to make your campus visit more effective.

1. **Be Prepared** – Research each college prior to your visit and prepare some questions for you guide. You don't want to waste time asking questions that are covered in the catalog.
2. **Be Yourself** - Dress comfortably, but neatly; be relaxed and friendly; participate in the conversation.
3. **Make An Appointment** – If this is not a special Open House program, be sure to call ahead for an appointment. This will insure that the admissions staff has someone ready to meet with you.
4. **Be on Time.**
5. **Don't Try to Do Too Much** – If you try to see more than one or two colleges per day, you will not get an accurate perception of those institutions.
6. **Make Notes** – Write down your thoughts and impressions as soon after the visit as possible.
7. **Meet People** – Ask to talk to students and professors. Be brave and have lunch at the dining hall.
8. **Observe Everything** – Notice whether or not classrooms, the library, residence hall rooms, dining halls and recreation areas are well maintained and functional.
9. **Don't Wait** – Don't put off your college visits until it's too late to fit them all in. If possible, make your visits before you apply, so you can determine if you and the college are a good match.