

Guide for Visiting a College

“Cast Your Line and Fish for Clues”

It is important to know what your questions are before you visit a college. Here are some questions to help you prepare.

1) FIND OUT ABOUT THE LEARNING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

What is the average size of classes?

What is the library like? Are the books up-to-date? What are the resources available in your area of interest?

Are there quiet places on campus to study? Where are they?

Do students have access to computers?

Is the computer, laboratory and classroom equipment up-to-date?

What kind of help is available to students? Career counseling? Job placement? Skills improvement?

What part-time or work-study jobs on campus might give you experience in a field that interests you?

2) ASK ABOUT THE FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY

What is the background of the faculty? Do they have advanced degrees?

Who teaches the undergraduate courses? Are they usually taught by professors or by graduate students?

How accessible are faculty members? Can you make appointments with them easily? Do they have posted office hours?

Are there clubs or organizations where you can meet students and faculty with your interest?

How diverse is the student body?

What kind of admissions policy does the school have? Open admissions or competitive admissions?

What percent of each year's entering class graduates from the school?

3) UNDERSTAND THE CURRICULUM

What is an average course load? Is there a set tuition rate that affects the number of classes you may take?

Are there required courses that all students must take?

Are a variety of courses offered?

How do you know which classes to take? What is the advising system like? Are you assigned an advisor or may you choose your own?

If you are beginning at a branch campus or two-year school – will your credits transfer if you want to go to the main campus or a four-year school?

4) EXPLORE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

What are the living arrangements for students?

Do students have to live on campus?

Do most students live on or off campus?

Are there residence halls or student apartments?

Are there co-ed residence halls or floors (where both men and women live?) Are there halls or floors where only women or only men are allowed?

Are special living arrangements available, such as language houses or “Greek houses?” Do residence halls offer such opportunities as resident artists, special courses, or quiet floors?

Can you choose your own roommate?

What types of meal plans are available?

What recreational, cultural, and social opportunities and facilities are there?

What support services are offered to help students with their personal lives? Coping strategies? Personal health and safety information? Counseling services?

What campus activities are available for students on weekends?

Are you comfortable with the school’s balance of social and academic life?