

Parent Handbook: College Visits 101

Your student's visit to a college of their choice can be exciting, but it's also important to make the visit a valuable experience and get questions answered.

Start by planning a specific schedule for what you will do while on campus. That way you can see and do everything you need and want to and allow some extra time to freely explore.

Some colleges have specific tours and programs that may pertain to your student, and certain days may not be available for tours. It's best to check ahead of time and you can ask about other activities available during your visit. You may need to sign up ahead of time for the particular dates, tours, interviews or meetings you would like.

Use colleges' websites, college exploration tools, social media and other platforms to see what people, including current and former students, say about the college and its programs.

Notes, photos, and visit materials and handouts will help you and your student remember your impressions of each college and digest a lot of information.

Current students will give you great insight into daily life at the college and in classes, as well as other activities, clubs and programs available. Make sure the visit is a worthwhile one and it's okay to duck out early if you or your student sees the college as obviously not a good fit.

If it is a good fit, take some time to explore the surrounding community, as this can be a valuable learning experience while visiting.

No matter what pops up along the way, you'll be prepared for your college financing journey.

Learn other helpful tips in the Parent Handbook.