

College Visit ✓ List - Rate It – Tips Worksheet

College/University Name			
College Location	City:	State:	Zip:
What Does It Cost	Tuition: \$	Room & Board: \$	
Regional Admissions Counselor:	Name: Email: Phone:		
My Visit To Do List:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attend Information Session <input type="checkbox"/> Tour Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to Students <input type="checkbox"/> Visit Library <input type="checkbox"/> Visit with Region Admissions Rep. <input type="checkbox"/> Check Wi-Fi Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Check out Computer Labs <input type="checkbox"/> Check out Recreational Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Check out Research Labs <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to a Professor <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a Campus Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Visit a Dorm/Apt. <input type="checkbox"/> Read Student Newspapers <input type="checkbox"/> Read Activity Bulletin Boards <input type="checkbox"/> Eat in a Dining Hall <input type="checkbox"/> Visit a Classroom <input type="checkbox"/> Sit in on a Class <input type="checkbox"/> Ask about Student Clubs/Activities <input type="checkbox"/> Tour City & Around Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Check out Student Support Services <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

Rate These College/University Characteristics: 1 - Totally Unacceptable 2 - Unacceptable 3 - Acceptable 4 - Very Acceptable 5 - Completely Acceptable	My Ratings
---	------------

	1	2	3	4	5
Distance from Home & Setting (Urban, Rural, City, etc.)					
Geographic Features – Weather, beaches, mountains, etc.					
Off-Campus - Community Around Campus					
Physical Size of Campus					
Size of Student Body (student enrollment)					
Diversity of Student Body (% - full time, male/female, 24 or younger, minority, international, etc.)					
% Students who live on Campus					
Retention and Graduation Rates					
Scholarship Opportunities					
Programs of Study (majors & minors)					
Who teaches classes - Professors or Teaching Assistants					
Class Scheduling (when are classes offered) & Academic Calendar					
Selectivity, i.e., acceptance rate					
Credit for AP, IB, PSEO, CIS, CLEP					
Housing					
Library					
Food Services					
Recreational					
Classrooms and Labs					
Transportation					
Campus Safety					
Religious Affiliation					
Athletic Activities (competitive)					
Campus Clubs, Sports, & Recreational Activities					
Greek Life					
Campus Events					
Social Scene					
Other Important to Me -					
Other Important to Me -					
Other Important to Me -					
Other Important to Me -					
College/University Total Score =					

College Visit ✓ List - Rate It – Tips Worksheet

College Visit ✓ List - Rate It – Tips Worksheet			
<p style="text-align: center;">College Visits Tips</p> <p>Visiting a college campus is a necessary component of the college planning process. You will never get a true sense of campus life from web sites, brochures, virtual tours, your friends, or crazy uncle Louie. Each college has a unique personality. Only by visiting campuses will you get a sense of what a college – and life at that college – is really like and whether a particular college is the right fit for you. When planning campus visits, make sure you allow enough time to explore each college. While on campus talk to as many people as possible – students, professors, college staff, etc.</p>	<p>Tip #1 – Don't be afraid to ask questions, after all this is a big decision, but let your son or daughter take center stage. During the formal presentation or tour, let them ask the questions and form their own impressions. Resist the temptation to be "that" parent – the one asking all the questions as their son or daughter slowly slinks into the shadows - you will have plenty of opportunity to corner an admission rep once the formal tour is over.</p> <p>Tip #2 – Don't drag the entire family along. Bringing younger siblings who will be bored senseless and not want to be there will only detract from the experience for your college bound daughter or son.</p> <p>Tip #3 – How much time should I spend on campus? Plan to spend at least a half a day per visit. Don't schedule more than 1 visit per day – a visit is more time consuming than you realize.</p> <p>Tip #4 – Have Fun. Don't make college visits an ordeal. Take it easy and enjoy yourself, as if you are spending a few hours at a favorite place. Plan time to wander around campus after the formal tour and presentation. Mingle and talk to students. Grab a bite to eat at the student union or campus café.</p> <p>Tip #5 – Wear comfortable shoes. Visits require a lot of walking. While you do not have to dress up, your wardrobe will be noticed. Dress casual as if going to class - don't make admissions officers uncomfortable talking to you by wearing inappropriate clothing. Don't wear clothing from another college. Check the weather, dress for the climate and season.</p> <p>Tip #6 – The quality of tour guide(s) varies. Almost all will be current undergraduate students. If your gut instinct is "I love this place", don't let first impressions of one admissions officer, tour guide, professor, or student influence your overall feelings about a college.</p> <p>Tip #7 – Talk with Current Students! They are your best resource for unfiltered information to truly understand what it is like to be a student on campus. If you go during an off period and not many students are around, ask the admissions office for the names of students (and contact information) who are willing to speak to prospective students.</p> <p>Tip #8 – Wander off the beaten path. After the admissions office spiel do a behind-the-scenes look for yourself. Don't just talk to students. Talk to professors, staff, and the barista at the local coffeehouse, etc. Each will give you a different perspective of what it is like to be a student at this school.</p> <p>Tip #9 - Although not guaranteed, showing demonstrated interest can be a tip factor in your being admitted to a school. I strongly recommend signing up for an official campus tour and information sessions, as it will earn you points in demonstrating interest. Just visiting is not enough: you need to document a visit by signing in at the admissions office. It is a good idea to introduce yourself to the admissions representative assigned to your school or geographic region.</p> <p>Tip #10 – The ideal time to visit a campus is when classes are in session. Life happens and often you must visit during an "off time". If visiting during an "off-time", keep in mind that what you see may not be reflective of the normal campus environment. If you like a college(s) when visiting during an off time, consider scheduling another visit when school is in session.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions To Ask Yourself</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Does the look and feel of the campus appeal to me? <input type="checkbox"/> As I walk around, do I find myself thinking – I am comfortable and could see myself living here for four years? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the campus attractive and well cared for? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the students I am running into seem like the type I would enjoy spending time with? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the atmosphere friendly and inviting? <input type="checkbox"/> Do I feel excited about the prospect of spending 4 years here? 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions To Ask Current Students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What do you like best about this college? Least? <input type="checkbox"/> Tell me about social life? What do students do during the week and weekends for fun? <input type="checkbox"/> Where do students live? What are those places like? Where are the best living arrangements? <input type="checkbox"/> How are the support services on campus (academic advising, internship, career counseling, etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> How accessible are instructors to undergraduate students? <input type="checkbox"/> What are some of the best and worst classes and who are some of the best and worst professors? <input type="checkbox"/> What kinds of students are most likely to fit in and do well here, academically? Socially? <input type="checkbox"/> What made you decide to attend this college? <input type="checkbox"/> If you had to do it all over again, would you still choose this college? If no, where would you go? 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions To Ask Professors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How many students are in this major? <input type="checkbox"/> Who and what are the "special" professors and courses in this department? <input type="checkbox"/> What kind of undergraduate research opportunities are available to students, are they available to new freshman? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you give me suggestions about books, courses, professional organizations or experiences that will prepare me this major? <input type="checkbox"/> How do you like teaching here? Why? If you had to do it all over again, to which colleges would you apply? 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions about the adjacent town & surrounding community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Do I feel comfortable here? <input type="checkbox"/> Do I feel safe? <input type="checkbox"/> Look at the people walking the streets. Do I like what I see? <input type="checkbox"/> Can I see myself shopping or hanging out in this community? <input type="checkbox"/> Is there a residential area nearby? Does it appeal to me? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there places close so I participate in activities I enjoy? <input type="checkbox"/> Can I see this as my "home away from home for four years?" 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Other Notes</p>	<p>Best Part About My Visit – Why?</p>	<p>Worst Part About My Visit – Why?</p>	<p>I Can Picture Myself Here? Why/Why Not?</p>