College Visits: A Planning Checklist

College/campus visits are a great way to get a feel for the institution you are considering. A visit will help you determine if the institution is a match for you and your academic and personal development goals.

Before visiting a campus, think about what you want to accomplish during your stay.

Do you want to
- speak with a coach?
- speak with a professor or someone in your academic field of interest?
- participate in an overnight hosting program?
- visit a class?
- meet with current students?
- chat with someone in the admissions office?
- sit in on a group information session?

When planning a campus visit be sure to
- check the institution’s website or publications for campus tour and information session schedules.
- call the Admissions Office to make an appointment or to let them know you plan to attend a session (if requested by that institution) or want to be hosted overnight.
- during the academic year, be sure to be mindful of student vacations and study or finals weeks. Visiting during those times will give you an inaccurate view of everyday life on campus.
- review the college’s materials ahead of time. This will help you generate questions to ask during your visit.

There are other, more informal ways that you can get to know the college/institution.
- Read the student newspaper
- Try to find other student publications - department newsletters, 'alternative' newspapers, literary reviews, etc
- Eat in a dining hall
- Stroll around the campus by yourself
- Read the bulletin boards in the student union and/or in the academic department in which you are interested
- Ask a student
  - what he/she loves/hates about the college
  - what he/she does on weekends
- Visit the college bookstore
- Walk or drive around the surrounding community

6.05