

## **On Your College Visit**

Take the lead, do the planning and then use your visit to both evaluate and experience the college. Try to get some time alone with students, away from your parents and the admissions representatives. Record your impressions as soon as possible and **before** discussing them with your parents.

### **Things to do**

Observe the students. Are they wearing college gear? Is anyone smiling?

Listen to the students. Note whether they talking about ideas from class or a weekend activities.

Interact with the students. Try to talk to at least six, to get a mix of information.

Eat in the cafeteria. How's the food?

Spend a night in the dorm.

Visit the library. Determine if there is more than one library or other place set aside for quiet study.

Sample the classes. Try to visit two. Is there participation?

Check out the housing. What is the variety and where is it located on campus?

Walk the campus. Consider whether the housing and classrooms are within easy walking distance.

Scan the bulletin boards and kiosks. Are there events you would like to attend? Any clubs you would like to join?

Read the student newspaper. Read any alternative student publications.

Drop by the student government, newspaper or radio station offices. Ask about recent campus issues and controversies.

### **Questions to Ask Tour Guides and Students**

Are your exams mostly multiple choice or essays? How many papers did you have to write last year?

How many large lecture classes did you have freshman year?

Are any of your classes or sections taught by graduate students? Are any taught by adjunct or part-time professors?

How easy is it to get the classes you want at registration? How does registration occur?

What is the housing system for older students? Do most seniors live on campus?

Is there Greek life on campus? What roles do the frats and sororities play in social life?

Do you often meet with faculty after class?

What is the advising system? How often do you meet with your advisor?

Are the courses challenging?

How many classes must you take as part of the core curriculum?

What are the most popular majors?

Does every senior have to write a senior or do a major project?

Where do students hang out on campus?

What is the chief gripe among students?

Are there research opportunities for undergraduates?

What intramural, club and intercollegiate sports are played?

Is access to the gym or other facilities restricted to varsity athletes?

Does the meal plan allow you to eat in various places or just one?

Do students use the career planning office?

What do students do for fun?

How many students participate in programs abroad?

Does the administration have a good relationship with the student body?

Is there a security force? Are there special phones linked to security?

What is the surrounding community like?