Exploring College Campuses

Visiting a college campus is one of the most exciting steps in choosing a college. If possible, it’s best if your teen can visit multiple campuses before senior year. Visiting colleges is a great way to get a feel for what college is like. It can help your family and child decide if a specific college is a right fit.

Exploring campuses is well worth your while. You don’t have to travel far—visiting local two- and four-year colleges is just as valuable. It’s best to go when the college is in session. That way, you’ll get to see it when classes are meeting and day-to-day activities are taking place.

Campus visits can range from a quick hour to an overnight stay, from a casual guided tour to a formal presentation. Most campus visits will include the following:

- **An information session.** An admissions representative talks to you or your group about the college before the campus tour.
- **A campus tour.** These are usually led by current students. You’ll see the main parts of the campus and have a chance to ask questions.

To arrange a visit, contact that school’s admissions office or check with your child’s high school guidance counselor to see if they are planning any group tours of nearby colleges that you and your child could attend.

**Did You Know?**

In addition to exploring campuses in person, you and your child can learn about colleges online. Try these free online tools: College Raptor, BigFuture, Cappex, or College Confidential.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** If my teen gets a really high score on an admission test, he or she can get in anywhere.

**REALITY:** High test scores won’t automatically get a student in any college.

For example, students may have high scores, but their school record might show that they haven’t worked hard in their classes.

Colleges want well-rounded students who have shown good character, motivation and accomplishments, both inside and outside the classroom.

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**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

− **Family Event:**

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**Student Checklist**

- **Research colleges online.** Conduct in depth research of postsecondary options and careers, including going on postsecondary campus visits, to three to five programs aligned with your career interests.
- **Prepare for state testing.** Participate in study skills and tutoring activities.
- **Learn how to pay for college.** Learn the differences between grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships.

**Family Checklist**

- **Encourage your child to research colleges online.**
- **Help your teen prepare for state testing.** Help your child get enough sleep.
- **Learn how to pay for college.** Learn the differences between grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships.

Visit [readysetgrad.org](http://readysetgrad.org) to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.