Campus Visits

Visiting colleges can help your child find their best college fit. All colleges have admission offices that can help you plan your visit. Or find out if the high school has organized any group tours of nearby colleges. If possible, you can plan your own visit to a college campus. Take these important first steps:

- Contact the college admissions office using the college’s website or by email or phone to get details and make a reservation.
- Talk to the high school counselor about joining an organized tour of campuses you might not get to visit otherwise.

Campus visits can vary, but most will include the following:

- An information session. An admission representative talks to you 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.
- Additional opportunities. At many colleges, you can also arrange to do the following: attend a class, eat in the dining hall, and/or meet with a professor, an admission officer, and/or a financial aid officer.

Before your visit:

- Explore the college’s website and review any materials the college has sent you.
- Make a list of questions to ask both staff and students. You can use the Campus Visit Checklist as a starting point.
- Get a map of the college campus and check where the admission office is. This will help ensure that you’re on time for your visit.

When you’re ready to go, pack a notebook and a camera so you can record your impressions.

Did You Know?

Research shows that furthering your education sets people on a path that leads to higher earnings, having access to healthier foods, and living in safer neighborhoods.
**Myth Buster**

**MYTH:** “...We make too much money, so my child won’t qualify for financial aid.”

**REALITY:** There is no income cut-off to qualify for federal student aid.

Eligibility is determined by a mathematical formula, not by income alone. Many factors, from the size of your family to the age of the parents, are taken into consideration.

And remember, when students fill out the FAFSA or WASFA, they are also automatically applying for funds from your state, and possibly from their college as well. In fact, some schools won’t even consider students for any of their scholarships (including academic scholarships) until they’ve submitted a FAFSA or WASFA.

Don’t make assumptions about what your child will get. Have your child fill out the application and find out. It is FREE to complete.

**Upcoming Events & Announcements**

- **Family Event:**

**Student Checklist**
- Think about lining up a summer job or internship.
- Attend college fairs and sessions with college representatives.
- Expand your research on community-based, federal, state, and private scholarships. Check out theWashBoard.org.
- Plan senior year classes and make sure they meet the college and career prep coursework.

**Family Checklist**
- Attend college fairs and financial aid events. Your child can ask the school counselor how to find events in your area. Check out the College Fair Checklist for more information.
- Help your child make summer plans. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your high schooler look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship.
- Visit colleges together. Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.

Visit readysetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.