

How to Prepare for the College Fair

Before the Fair:

- Dress in appropriate clothing. First impressions count!
- Consider setting up an email address specifically for college applications that sounds professional. You will be asked to fill out inquiry cards by the colleges to add your information to the school's mailing list. A good suggestion is to pick something with a combination of your first name and last name or initials.
- Plan ahead! Look over the list of colleges and universities that are participating. Make a list of which schools you want to visit at the fair.
- Bring a small notebook and pen to jot down information about schools you want to remember.

Try to decide what factors are important to you:

- Availability of a specific major or program
- Size of student body
- Setting: large city, small city, suburban, rural
- Geographic location
- Type: public, private, two-year, four-year
- Housing: on-campus, commuter
- Cost: availability of financial aid & scholarship programs
- Specialty programs for example, music, art, clubs, athletics etc.

Things about yourself that you may want to share with college admission representatives:

- Possible majors or academic interest
- Academic background and senior year coursework
- Special talents
- Standardized test scores
- Nonacademic interests
- Special needs

Make a list of questions you might want to ask. Here are some samples:

- Tell me about the major(s) I am interested in.
- What criteria are considered when making an admissions decision?
- How do you determine admission? What is most important (SAT, grades, etc.)?
- What is the regular application process (When due, what is needed to apply)?
- Tell me about the athletic programs, organizations, etc. that I am interested in.
- What types of security do you have in place?
- What is the percentage of students that live on campus?
- How many students to a room?
- What is the average class size?
- Are early admission programs available?
- When is the best time to visit the campus?
- What financial aid programs are available?
- What type of career planning services do you have?
- Does the college have a study abroad program?
- What is available to students in the surrounding community?
- Does your college give college credit for AP and/or college courses taken in high school?
- Is a car necessary to get around or is their public transportation? Are freshman permitted to have a car on campus?
- Are freshman required to live on campus?