STUDENT GUIDE FOR ENGAGING WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

Each year, Trinity welcomes admission representatives from colleges and universities across the country to share information about their institutions with students on Trinity's campus. These are open to all Upper School students and can be helpful in learning about various types of higher education institutions (i.e., private, public, HBCU, single-gendered, etc.). In this process, you can learn more about which opportunities and programs might suit you best. Juniors and seniors should please plan to register to attend many of these visits (as many schools track when you attend events/programs as demonstrated interest). It's tremendously helpful in a successful college search, and it will help you identify your particular strengths, areas for growth, and aspirations in the season ahead.

To get started…

- View the College Counseling Calendar to see when colleges are visiting.
- If you're a Junior or Senior and want to host a college representative, please complete this form. Get to know the folks who may be reading your application! If you see on the calendar that the college is visiting but you do not see the college listed on the student host sign-up form then we already have two students signed up to host. You should still plan to visit the reps table during your lunch period.
- In your SCOIR account, Juniors and Seniors can register for college rep visits visible on the right-hand side under "Upcoming Events" for it to count as an official visit or provide your name to the rep at their table.
- Check your email and listen for announcements as these opportunities may pop up.

Preparing for college visits can make a big difference, so we encourage you to:

Do some homework

- Learn about the college in your SCOIR account.
- Peruse the college website.

Be polite and interested

- Introduce yourself with a firm handshake and direct eye contact.
- Sit up straight and be attentive throughout the session.
- Say "thank you" at the end of the session.
- Write a thank-you note following your conversation/visit.

Ask good program questions, such as…

- ☐ What are the defining features of your academic program? What is distinctive about education here? What is the educational philosophy of the college? Has it changed much in recent years?
- ☐ Is the honor code working? How widespread is cheating?
- ☐ What is the most popular major on campus? Why?
- ☐ Do you think that students are generally enthusiastic about their classes? Do people talk about their courses outside of class?

Source: Adapted from Campus Visits & College Interviews by Zola Dincin Schneider (College Board, 2002).This book has many more questions you might ask of college representatives, plus chapters on every aspect of the interview and campus visit.

- [ ] How would you characterize the academic pressure and workload?
- [ ] Are there research possibilities with the faculty? In what areas?
- [ ] What is the quality of student and faculty relationships? Is the faculty interested in and
- [ ] accessible to students after class? Do faculty members participate in student activities?
- [ ] Are curriculum changes in the works? How will that affect my college years?
- [ ] Are any departments being cut back or discontinued? If so, why?
- [ ] Are any new programs scheduled for the next four years?
- [ ] What opportunities are there for study beyond the school itself?
- [ ] How accessible are the professors?
- [ ] How much teaching is done by professors (vs. graduate student teaching assistants)?
- [ ] What percentage of your students get into graduate school?
- [ ] What is your college known for among peer schools? Job recruiters?
- [ ] Please tell me about your _____ program.
- [ ] What do you want your graduates to take away with them from your school?

Ask good culture questions, such as…

- [ ] What are the core values of your college?
- [ ] How would you describe a typical student at your university?
- [ ] What's a typical day like? What do students do for fun?
- [ ] What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends? If I didn't want to join in, would I find kindred spirits?
- [ ] Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- [ ] What were the social or cultural highlights last year?
- [ ] What is the role of the campus newspaper?
- [ ] Is there an alcohol problem and, if so, how is the college handling it? What is the incidence of binge drinking? Do students feel safe on campus?

Ask good student questions, such as…

- How would you characterize the majority of students?
- From what economic background are the majority of students?
- Are there clubs, activities, or housing that are minority related?
- What do students like most about the college? Like least?
- Has the student government made any real contribution to the school? How do you get into student government?
- What political, social, or academic issues concerned students last year? How did the administration react? What was the resolution?

Social groups

- What are the dominant social groups on campus? Do the groups get along with one another? Have there been any problems?
- Can you please describe social life on campus? If there are fraternities/sororities, how much emphasis is placed on these and what role do they play on campus?

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- Are there faith-based groups on campus? What denomination, if any, are they? Is there a chapter of Young Life? Cru? InterVarsity Christian Fellowship? Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)?
- What kind of town/city life is there for college students? What is there to do in town? How would I get there?
- Can I have a car on campus my freshman year?

Housing and dining

- How many students live on campus all four years?
- Is there something I should know about housing that would help me in my choice? Are dorms single-gender or coed? Single or double (or triple) rooms?
- Is the food good? — What are the types of food plans? All you can eat? Vegetarian? Kosher? Gluten-free options or allergy considerations?

Activity centers and athletic and recreational facilities

- What kinds of facilities does the student center have? Is it a magnet for student activities? Are there other hangouts? — Do you think the college pays attention to its appearance?
- How would you rate the fitness center?

Health, career counseling, special student services, and security

- Is there a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or career counselor on campus? What is the waiting period for appointments?
- Is the office for special services adequate to the demand?
- How good is the security on campus?
- What kind of support do you provide for students with learning disabilities?

Academic support

- What have been students' experiences with the library? Have there been complaints?
- Is the library well equipped with computers and copy machines?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the advising system?

Ask application-related questions, such as…

- ☐ What are you looking for in your applicants?
- ☐ How much weight do you give to grades, scores, recommendations, and essays…?
- ☐ Do you encourage college visits/ interviews?
- ☐ If I'm very interested in your college, should I apply early decision/early action?
- ☐ Is demonstrated interest a factor?
- ☐ How extensive are your resources for financial aid? Is your admission process need-blind?
- ☐ Do you offer merit scholarships? If so, how would I apply?

* Need some more tips and tricks? This resource offers sound advice about how to get the most from meetings with college representatives on campus and at college fairs.

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