

For the upcoming College Fair season, we have adopted the [advice](#) published by Fontbonne University and the [College Fair Checklist](#) from our friends at Princeton Review.

Make a College Fair Game Plan Before you arrive at the fair, do your research. Which college representatives do you want to meet? What do you know about their college already, and what more do you want to know? Depending on your priorities, you might decide to focus your attention on schools that have a strong program for your intended major. Naviance is a great place to start your research; contact your counselor if you need your Naviance credentials.

Keep an open mind. You may go into a fair with a clear idea of which school you're most interested in, but try to keep an open mind. Consider exploring various options instead of spending all of your time with a single admissions counselor. Chat with different types of schools (public, private, small, large, in-state, out-of-state, etc.). **We recommend that you spend 10 to 20 minutes with each school, allowing yourself to explore different institutions**

Watch the clock. If there are multiple schools participating in the college fair, give yourself enough time to talk to all of the ones you might be interested in. Admissions representatives probably won't remind you to talk to other schools, so don't feel bad ending a conversation when you need to move on to the next table. You will be responsible for setting a pace that allows you to explore all of your options during the event!

Put your best foot forward. While messy hair and disheveled appearance won't get you denied in the college admissions process, it's a good idea to think about how you present yourself. Suits, ties, and fancy clothes are not required!

Get Contact Information and Use It When you've asked all your questions and (hopefully) feel good about the college rep you just spoke with, be sure to ask them for their contact information and use it if you have more questions after you've left the fair.

Prepare a list of questions. College fairs provide an excellent opportunity to find out whether a specific school would be a good fit for you. Before you go, ask yourself: What's important to me in choosing a school? What information do I need to make the best decision? And remember — counselors are there for you, so don't be afraid to ask! Below is a list of questions that could be helpful.

1. What do students like most about your school? What is the biggest complaint from students?
2. What kinds of students are happiest at your school?
3. Where do students hang out on campus? Do students mostly live on or off campus?
4. What financial aid programs does your college offer?
5. What academic programs are the most popular at your college?
6. Do admission officers make decisions solely on numbers and stats, or do extracurricular activities truly matter at your school?
7. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
8. How does your career planning department compare to other colleges/universities?
9. What are the faculty like and how accessible are they outside of class?
10. Are there internships available specific to my major?
11. Is there job placement help for graduates?
12. Are you able to give me the names of a few students that I can talk to about their experience at your school?