



SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

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Tips for Athletes Visiting Colleges

- **BE PREPARED!**
 - Bring copies of your athletic resume, letter of introduction, game/tournament schedule, unofficial academic transcript, test scores, school profile, etc.
 - Demonstrate how organized and prepared you are as a prospective student athlete
- **Go on a campus tour and meet with an Academic Advisor**
 - Understand all that the school has to offer: majors, programs, internship opportunities, etc.
 - You should pick a school and a program that fit you best athletically, academically, socially, and personally
 - Be sure to have copies of your unofficial academic transcript, schedule, school profile, & resume
- **Watch practice and games**
 - Familiarize yourself with the expectations, time commitment, standards, and discipline associated with being a student-athlete
 - Recognize a coach's teaching style
 - Take special note of a team's competition, reputation, the formation they play, and how teammates interact with one another
 - Assess the student athlete experience beyond the team & playing the sport
- **Be conscious of how you present yourself**
 - ABCs: Attitude, Behavior, & Clothing
 - Be enthusiastic about the possibility of playing and attending that institution
 - Individuals on the team will report back to their coaches about how you presented yourself throughout the course of your visit
- **Thank yous**
 - Be sure to thank coaches and hosts for having you
 - Express your enthusiasm for the possibility of playing and attending their institution

Questions to Ask on Unofficial/Official Visits

- **Don't be afraid to ask questions!**

- Ask forward-thinking questions
- Be the one who is asking the important questions, not your parents

- ***Sample questions to ask a coach:***

- What is your recruiting timeline?
- What are you looking for in a recruit? (characteristics, skills, positions & experience)
- What is your coaching philosophy?
- How many spots do you have to fill and how many other recruits are you looking at for my position?
- What stands between me and becoming one of your recruits?
- Am I in your range both athletically and academically?
- When would I know where I stand?
- What academic supports are available for athletes?

Most importantly, listen carefully to what the coach has to say. Some answers may be painful, but are also necessary to hear.

- ***Sample questions to ask players on the team:***

- What does your daily schedule look like? What are the differences in-season vs. off-season?
- How many hours per night do you spend studying?
- What are the attitudes of professors toward athletes?
- What help is available if I have academic concerns?
- Do you have an academic advisor? If so, are you required to meet with them? How are the advising services?

- ***Sample questions to ask non-athletes at the school:***

- If you were able to start the college search process over again, would you still choose this school to attend? Why/why not?
- What opinions do professors and non-athletes have about athletes at this school?

- ***Sample questions to ask admissions officers or other school officials:***

- What is the graduate rate of athletes as compared to non-athletes? How does my sport compare, specifically?
- Do most students in my sport earn a degree in four years at this school?
- What percentage of graduates in my field of study find jobs within a year of graduation? What is the average starting salary?

- ***Questions to ask yourself after a visit:***

- Would I still attend this school if I had no intention of competing in my sport?
- Would I still be happy at this school if one or more of the coaches leaves?
- Do the coaches and players respect each other? Were the coaches and players honest, friendly, and genuinely interested?
- Do the coaches express interest in and ask questions about my educational and career interests?
- Will I be successful both academically and athletically at this school?
- Will I fit in socially at this school and will I be comfortable here for four or more years?