

Campus Visits

It is very helpful for students to visit college/university campuses. Students should go to the college's website to arrange a visit. If you can't find where to do this, please contact Mrs. Leszczuk (aleszczuk@springer-ld.org) who can help you. A great time to visit is during junior year and fall of senior year. Some students will do second visits in the spring of senior year after they have been accepted at colleges and are trying to make a final decision on where to attend.

Students are permitted to miss three days of school both junior and senior years to visit schools. Please consult the school calendar carefully. Teacher professional development days are great days to visit a college since the student doesn't have to miss school and complete make-up work. Parents need to email Mrs. Leszczuk (aleszczuk@springer-ld.org) and copy Mrs. Hart (jhart@springer-ld.org) in order to ensure an excused absence preferably two days before the scheduled college visit. Students are responsible to see their teachers regarding their class assignments before the college visit.

Many colleges have specific scheduled open house days for juniors. These special programs are well planned and can be quite informative for students and parents. Students should consult the college's website for these planned programs as well as to schedule individual visits. Students should include their parents on these official college visits. Students should plan to attend an information session (if available), take a tour, and possibly meet with a professor in an area of interest or attend a class. It would also be wise to make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility Services to discuss what accommodations may be possible for you to use on their campus (and the process regarding this, especially what documentation is necessary for these services). Lastly, parents may want to meet with a financial aid officer if they have specific and personal questions regarding their particular situation.

Tips for campus visits

- ❖ Review the college's website prior to your visit.
- ❖ Get directions and allow ample travel and parking time.
- ❖ Make a list of questions before the visit.
- ❖ Be positive and energetic, and dress in neat, clean casual clothes and comfortable shoes.
- ❖ Listen and take notes.
- ❖ Be prepared to answer questions about yourself. Practice a mock interview with someone.
- ❖ Do not be shy about explaining your background and why you are interested in the college.
- ❖ Relax and enjoy yourself.
- ❖ As soon as possible following your visit, it is a good idea to reflect on your visit and take notes including your parents' opinions and observations as well.
- ❖ If possible, sit in on a class, and observe the student/professor interaction.

Learning from Campus Visits

Questions to ask students or admission officers:

- Why do students select this college?
- What is the attitude of students about the college?
- What do students love the most about this college?
- What do students complain about most?
- How active is the social life?
- What type of student seems happiest?
- What are the most popular majors?
- What are the most popular extracurricular activities?
- What are their student traditions?
- How active is the college in helping students with career planning?
- What happens around here on weekends? Do students stay on campus?
- How safe is the campus? How comfortable will I feel walking through your campus alone at night?

Questions to ask admission officers or professors:

- What are typical course requirements - exams, papers, presentations?
- Who teaches introductory courses - professors or graduate students?
- What arrangements are made for advising and tutorial help?
- What opportunities exist for independent study and study abroad?
- What departments are considered outstanding, weak, and average?
- After graduation, what do typical graduates do?
- Why is this a good college for me to study my selected major?
- What if I am unsure about my major? Is this a good place to explore?

Questions students should ask representatives from the Office of Accessibility (*this may be called something different at each college - e.g., Office of Disability Services*)

1. What documentation is required to become eligible to receive accommodations and Services?
2. How current should the documentation be?
3. Based on the disability, are there specific evaluations or test results that need to be submitted to become eligible to receive services?
4. What is the process that is used to review the documentation and to determine eligibility?
5. How do students apply for academic accommodations? How long does it take for accommodations to be approved?
6. Do I have to reapply for accommodations each year?
7. Will I be able to receive the same accommodations and services I received in high school?
8. How many students (or percentage of student body) at the college receive assistance?
9. What are the most common disabilities you serve?

10. What types of accommodations and services are provided directly through their office? (e.g., extended time on tests, a distraction free testing environment, the use of a calculator on tests, note taking assistance, audio books, adaptive or assistive technology resources, priority registration, professional tutoring, peer tutoring, study skills training, academic advising...).
11. Are there any unique or additional services offered that students seem to find helpful?
12. If I am a student at the college, who would be my primary contact person in this office? What is their expertise?
13. Would I have a separate advisor outside of this office?
14. Are there any fees for the services that are offered by your office?
15. Do staff members have previous experience working with students with a disability or an area of need that is similar to my own? If yes, what types of accommodations and services have been provided in the past?
16. What types of general academic support services are available for all students on the campus?
17. Who provides tutoring? How are they trained?
18. Are there services provided to assist freshmen students with the transition from high school to college?
19. How are professors at the college notified about the academic accommodations for students with disabilities?
20. What provisions are in place in case an issue occurs with receiving accommodations?
21. What types of housing options or housing accommodations are available on campus (e.g. single rooms)?
22. What types of resources are available on the campus that may be helpful to me (e.g., health center, counseling services...)?
23. What types of community resources are near the college that may be helpful for me (e.g., medical facilities, psychological services, consultants, specialists...)?
24. Are there any considerations that students with disabilities should know about regarding the admission process at the college?
25. Do you provide information about the graduation rate and/or the retention rate for students who are served by your office?
26. Are substitutions available for particular required courses at the college if they are needed based on the nature of a disability (e.g., world language courses)?
27. Are there special scholarships for students with disabilities?
28. Are there any support groups or clubs for students with disabilities?