

Tips for Attending a College Fair

Plan to visit schools you may be interested in first, then make the most of your time by visiting other schools. You never know, a school you may not have initially considered may end up being a great match for you.

Make a good first impression. Put a smile on your face, make eye contact, introduce yourself, and shake the representatives hand before beginning your conversation. In closing your conversation, shake his/her hand again and say thank you. Sometimes the people you are meeting are the same people who will later read your application and possibly advocate for you in the application process.

Complete the colleges “contact card”. Even if you are already receiving materials from the college, this can demonstrate your interest in the school.

Ask questions that are unique to you and your interests. Don't ask questions that can be easily found on their website. To compare colleges, try to ask the same question to all of the schools you visit.

Sample questions that might apply to you:

- Can you tell me about XXXXX major or program?
- When do you have to declare a major? What are the most competitive majors?
- What is the campus atmosphere like? What do the students do in the evening and on the weekends?
- What is the area around the campus like?
- How accessible are faculty to students? Who teaches the classes?
- If you are interested in research, ask about those opportunities
- If you want practical experience, ask about internship or co-op opportunities
- If you have a disability or learning issue, ask about the colleges support services
- Is housing available for all 4 years? What percentage of students live off campus?
- Are there opportunities to study abroad?

Pick up brochures and materials from the schools you interact with.

Take great notes. After visiting a few schools it is unlikely that you will remember who said what. Once you step away from a table, take a few notes before moving to the next school.

After the fair, review the brochures and materials you picked up along with the notes you took. If you are overloaded with information, give it a few days then pull everything out and look it over. This will help you digest what schools are interesting to you and what you might want to research further.