How to Maximize Your College Fair Experience

It is important that you select a college program best suited for your interests and goals. Gain in-depth information from College Representatives to help you make an informed college choice, practice your communication skills and converse about your skills, knowledge and interests.

10 Quick Tips | Before and During the Fair
1. Outline several goals that you are committed to and keep them in mind throughout this process.
2. Review the fair directory/agenda to see who will be attending.
3. Research schools of interest, then you can ask very focused and specific questions.
4. Visit schools you are most interested in first.
5. Select some questions you want to ask (there’s a few on this sheet), practice asking the questions so it’s a natural conversation.

6. Remember the College Rep’s name.
7. Put your best foot forward with energy and enthusiasm and a firm handshake.
8. Talk to colleges you have not considered before to explore all your options.
9. Pick up cards and pamphlets.
10. Take Notes.

After the Event
1) Take time to reflect on your experience—did you accomplish your goals? If not, why not? What would you do differently next time? Write all of this down so you don’t forget it! What might you undertake the rest of the year to improve your skills?

2) Follow-Up. Send a brief email to key people that you met, particularly if they went out of their way to help you, saying something about what you got out of the conversation or their presentation. It can also bring attention to your name.

3) Options. Hopefully you received a sense of some College options. If you have used the event correctly, you will have made contact with several schools that match your profile and interests. In thinking about their needs and your background, evaluate whether each school might be a match for you.
Questions

Here are some example questions you could ask:

**General**
- What do your students like most about your school?
- How would you describe the students that go there? Where do most of them come from?

**Admission**
- What is the average high school GPA of the entering freshman class? Average ACT/SAT scores?
- Do you accept AP courses (or IB credits)?
- Do you offer early decision or early admission?
- Are there any admission requirements beyond the standard application?

**Academics**
- How would you describe the academic pressure/workload?
- How easy is it for freshmen to get classes?
- What’s the largest class on campus? The smallest?
- Do I have to declare a major when I apply? When must I choose a major?
- How do you assign faculty advisors to students, especially those who are undecided about their majors?
- What types of support services are available?
- Any special programs (Study Abroad, Internships, Independent Study, Joint Programs...)?

**Campus Life**
- What types of extra-curricular activities are there?
- What athletic events are popular?
- Is Greek Life a big part of the campus culture?
- Is having a car necessary? Is their transportation on/off campus?
- Can you give me examples of campus traditions?
- What do students do in their free time? Where do they hang out?
- Where do students hang out on campus?
- What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home?

**Financial Aid**
- What kind of financial aid is available?
- What percentage of students received financial aid?
- What types of scholarships are available?

**Room/Board**
- Are students required to live on campus?
- Is housing guaranteed? For how long?
- How are roommates selected?
- How does the meal plan work? What are eating options?
- Are the dorms co-ed? Female/Male?

**Your 30-second Elevator Pitch**
It’s a commercial about you! Talk about yourself in a concise, yet informative, manner.
Write, edit, and practice!
It should include your name, class year, relevant activities (work, internship, extracurriculars, volunteer work), highlights of skills and strengths but tailor your introduction to each school based on good research and knowledge of each program.

**NOTE**: Visit the College and Career Counseling table and meet your new Counselors.

**REMEMBER**: Attend a workshop!