



CAMPUS VISITS

There is no better way to learn about a college than through a campus visit while school is in session. Campus visits provide you the opportunity to evaluate the quality of the faculty, programs, facilities, spirit, opportunities for engagement, and campus atmosphere. While there are many factors that must be considered, a campus visit can quickly move a school to the top of your list or help you rule it out altogether. It is better to see a college through your own eyes rather than rely on the words of friends or slick marketing materials.

WHY VISIT?

- Campus visits make it more likely that you will choose a college that actually fits your needs.
- You will have the opportunity to observe the students – what they wear, how they live, etc.
- You will be able to see where you will eat, sleep, study, attend classes, and take part in campus activities.
- Your college experience will be more positive and you will be more productive in an environment that fits with your personal and academic goals and your value system.

PREPARING FOR A VISIT:

- Arrange your visit in advance – avoid “dropping in”.
- Plan your visits to coincide with days off at Geneva or with special high school visits days offered by most colleges. Check the college’s website to find out about these days that are designed to introduce you to the campus.
- Allow sufficient time for your visit. Plan to stay overnight and build in some time to hang out on campus, especially if you know any current students who can give you the informal tour.
- Familiarize yourself with the college and any programs you are interested in before you visit so that you can ask pertinent questions while you are there.
- Be prepared to talk about your areas of interest.
- Carry a copy of your resume, transcript, and school profile (Tab B) in case someone asks questions about your academic background.
- Give careful attention to your appearance, grooming, and conduct during your visit. First impressions matter!
- If possible, visit with at least one of your parents. Believe it or not, they may think of some good questions that you would not have.

DURING THE VISIT:

- Carry a notebook or portfolio where you can collect materials you receive and write down important information – especially contact information for people you meet!
- Schedule an appointment with the admissions office, including a campus tour, if available. For many schools, you can make appointments online or you can call the admissions office. Ask about:
 - Average class size
 - Financial aid and scholarships
 - School calendar and fee schedule
- Try to schedule an appointment with an advisor from the major, course of study, or program that you want to pursue. Ask about:
 - Pre-requisites, especially in Math, Science and Language – this will help you make informed course selections for your senior year
 - Any program specific admission criteria
 - Study abroad opportunities
- Talk to students on campus, especially former Geneva graduates, and ask them about the academic, social, and spiritual climate on campus.
- Check out as many of the following as possible:
 - Student residence halls and dining facilities
 - The library
 - Transportation/parking options
 - Career Center
 - Recreation Center
 - Student Services

AFTER THE VISIT:

- Complete a College Comparison Worksheet for the school (see the last page in this section).
- Write a thank-you note to the staff or faculty member who assisted you.
- Stop by the Geneva Counselor's office if the visit generated any questions.
- Begin ranking the schools you are considering and narrow them to a manageable few.

RESOURCE:

The next pages contain a campus visit guide provided by ACT.