



BUILD-YOUR-OWN-COLLEGE TOUR

Selecting Colleges

List the 5 colleges you'd like to visit (Name, City and State)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Learn more about the colleges

- Request a catalog or brochure via mail or download a PDF copy
- Visit the college websites. Don't forget to check out these areas:
- Admissions – Find out what colleges require (grades, scores, deadlines, etc.) so that you can prepare, access applications and admissions office contact information
- Campus Tours/Visits – Find out if the college has any scheduled tours
- Prospective Students – Good place to find information on pre-college programs, summer programs, and profiles of the types of students the college expects to admit
- Students or Student Life – The fun stuff lies here! This page usually features the stuff that really define student life on campus—from campus hangouts, student organizations, sports and other events.
- Contact Us/Directions – Get contact information and directions

More interesting information:

- Student Blogs – Many colleges now host student blogs. Check out what students have to say about the colleges they attend.
- Life in (Whatever City) – Most colleges try to sell students on the city or town in which the school is located. After all, many of your weekends and nights will be spent off campus.



- Academics/Courses – Find out which courses are being offered during the summer and see if you drop in and listen
- Facebook.com – Read what other students have to say about their school. Check out their profiles and join their communities.

Things You Want & Need

Make a list of must-have things, the things you absolutely must have in order to be happy at a college, a high rank or a respected writing program, for example.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- College Type:** 4-Year 2-Year Public
 Private Community Historically Black College
 Hispanic-Serving Native American

Location:

- Big City Small Town Close to home Far Away

Number of Students:

- Small enough to know everyone Large enough Huge!

Student Demographics:

- All women/men Co-ed % Minority

Majors/Academics (Does this college have your major?): Y/N

- Remedial Programs Honors Programs Unique Majors

List majors you're considering.

1. _____
2. _____



3. _____

Dormitories:

- New Wired Private Rooms Dining Halls
 Dorms for Students With Similar Interests (Sports, Arts, Engineering, etc.)

Student Life:

- Sports Clubs Community Greek Life Social Life

Things You Don't Want or Need

List the "deal-breakers", the things that would make you run screaming away from a college.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Contacting the Admissions Office

Admissions Office Phone Number: _____

School Address: _____

Ask about...

- Student-led tours/tour schedules
- Auditing (dropping in on) classes
- Visiting or staying in student dorms during your visit
- Nearby hotels
- Pre-College and other summer programs for high school students

Campus Tour Checklist



- Team Travel** – Why not team up with friends or classmates who are also interested in the same colleges? Ask your friends. Ask your teachers to pass the word that you are looking for others to join your campus tour. In fact, ask your teachers if any of them would be interested in organizing summer field trips to local campuses.

- Planes, Trains and Automobiles** – How will you get there? Consider discount airlines (Southwest, JetBlue, Skybus, AirTran and Ted), Greyhound and AmTrak for long distance trips. Consider driving your own car or a rental, or trains, buses and other public transportation to visit local campuses

- Maps** – Don't forget your road maps and campus maps. Use Mapquest or Google Maps to get directions to/from home to the campus, between campuses and to/from the bus or train station or airport. Print campus maps from the college's website or bring along the catalog.

- Travel Itinerary** – Making the most of this trip requires lots of planning. Keep all of your travel information in one place.

Departure Time	Arrival Time	Flight/Bus/Train Number	Hotel/Dorm Name



- Campus Tour/Event Schedule** – Note all tour dates/times and starting locations. Don't forget to write down any events (sightseeing tours, live music, etc.) that you plan to see while visiting the college and city.

Event	Date	Time	Starting Location

- Cash/Credit** – Every trip requires funds, even if your room and board is covered as part of a summer program, you'll want to bring cash for gas, emergencies, and, of course, late night pizza at the local dive.
- Comfy Attire** – Trekking around campus can be hard work, so pack comfy clothes and walking shoes. Also, check the weather before leaving to ensure that you'll be dressed appropriately.
- Safety** – Bring a friend or parent, and stick close to them. No drinking or drugs. This is not the time to test out the parties or nightclubs. Don't go to the dorms with anyone other than your student host or tour guide.