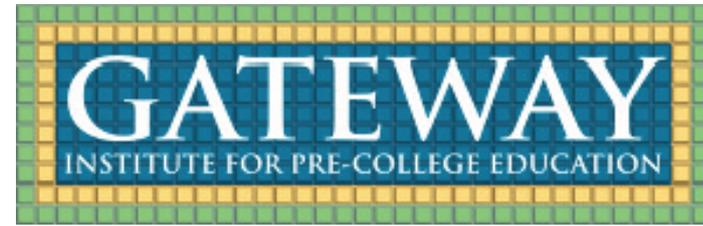


QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How many students usually apply to your school and how many of those are accepted?
2. What is the size of the freshman class?
3. What is the number of students in a typical freshman class?
4. How many minority students attend your college?
5. Is there housing on campus?
6. Is there a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) and SAT score needed to attend your college?
7. What support services, clubs and associations are available to meet the interest and needs of minority students?
8. What is the community like both in and around the campus?
9. Do you offer a major in _____ (your interest)?
10. Are there summer programs available at your college?
11. Is there financial aid available and is it discussed in the college brochure?
12. Is there a career and job placement office at your college?
13. How can I arrange to visit your campus?



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HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF A COLLEGE FAIR

Consider the types of colleges. Which type suits you best?

Public College/University

This type of college/university is supported by state money, and therefore may be less expensive to attend if you live in the state where the college is located.

Private College/University

This type of college/university relies on the tuition, fees and contributions of private donors and therefore may be more expensive than state supported public colleges/universities. Do not forget, there is financial aid available to help you if you are interested in a private college or university.

Liberal Arts College

This type of college offers a wide variety of courses in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences. Many are private and focus mainly on undergraduate students.

Special Interest College

This type of college offers a variety of choices and allows you to decide what type of education you want to pursue. These choices include single sex colleges, historically black colleges, Hispanic-serving institutions and religiously affiliated colleges.

Specialized College

This type of college emphasizes preparation for specific careers. Examples are colleges that specialize in business, computer technology and health science.

Community College

This type of college offers an associate degree upon completion of two years of full-time study. They frequently offer technical programs that prepare you for immediate entry into the job market. Many people also attend community and junior colleges to prepare and save money so that they can transfer to a four-year university.

BEFORE THE FAIR

Do the following:

- Discuss your college plans with your guidance counselor, teachers, friends who attend college and with your family.
- Check your school's guidance office or library to learn more about the colleges that you have heard or read about.
- Examine catalogues and tapes available in the college, guidance or coordinator's office.
- Visit the websites of the schools in which you are interested.
- Bring a copy of your transcript or recent report card to the Fair. Know your SAT/ACT scores.
- Carry an empty backpack, a set of index cards, a pen and a sheet of self-stick address labels with your contact information including, name, address, phone number, email address, high school, and year of graduation.

AT THE FAIR

Visit as many schools as you can.

- At the Fair you will receive a numbered list of schools. Circle the number of each college that you are interested in learning more about. You should consider location, size, course of study, etc.
- Circulate in a small group; remember the best college for you may not be best for your friends.
- Place one of your address labels on the college information card if you wish additional information.
- Select five or six questions to ask each admissions representative. (See the back page for suggested questions.) On an index card, jot down notes after speaking to the representative.
- On the same index card, note your general impression of the school.
- Write down the name of the representative or collect his/her card. Check for open house dates and campus visits.
- If you believe you may wish to apply to the school, obtain an application and a catalogue.



Make a Good First Impression

- Ask good questions.
- Listen carefully.
- Speak clearly.
- Make eye contact.
- Dress appropriately.
- When you leave give a handshake or smile and a thank you.

AFTER THE FAIR

- When you leave the Fair you will have a backpack with a great deal of information. The catalogues and brochures are impressive, but do not make a decision based solely on a catalogue, brochure or video.
- Review the material you collected at the Fair. Discuss the information with a family member, counselor or teacher. You will find that some colleges aren't as interesting as you first thought, and others will look better the more you find out about them. For the colleges you are interested in, fill out the information cards included in the brochures and plan to visit the campus individually, with your school or with a Gateway Institute trip.