

Tips for meeting with College Representatives

Did you know that each fall, dozens of colleges from around the nation send representatives to visit Acalanes High School, many of whom are admissions officers? This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about a college without traveling to visit it and to interact with a person who may be reviewing your application in the future.

Here's how it works and some tips to keep in mind:

The basics:

- College rep visits are held in the College and Career Center (located between Attendance and the Counseling office).
- Visits are listed in Naviance under the “Colleges” tab.
- You must sign up for a visit in Naviance at least 24 hours in advance.
- On the day of the visit during the class period when the visit is being held, check in with your teacher first and then come to the College and Career Center.
- Visits are open to seniors and juniors (space permitting).

What to do at the visit:

- Listen and ask questions! (See the list of suggested questions below for ideas about what to ask.) Reps will usually go over the admissions requirements, housing, student life, and financial aid.
- Remember, the reps are often admissions officers so take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions and get answers straight from the source.
- Take notes and make sure you write down the rep's name.
- Make sure to grab a brochure about the school. That's where you can find helpful information like the school's website, admission requirements, and contact information.
- Introduce yourself and shake hands. Stand up straight and make eye contact. Ask if the rep has a business card you can collect.
- Ask if the rep will review your application essays. Many will!
- Get a feel for the school. You can tell a lot about the culture of a campus through these visits, so take it all in and then ask yourself, is this school the right fit for me?

After the visit:

- Many Universities consider a student's “demonstrated interest” when reviewing applicants. Attending a college rep visit is a great way to show your interest in a school. What's even better? Follow up with that rep after the visit by calling or emailing him or her to say thank you.
- Have a question? Now you have a direct contact at the university who can help you. Shoot him or her an email.
- Keep in touch. If you accomplish something really awesome after you submit your application, send the rep an email to let him or her know.

20 Questions to Ask College Representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college reps genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue:

1. What makes your college unique?
2. What academic programs is your college most known for?
3. How would you describe the kids that go there? Where do most of them come from?
4. Where do kids hang out on campus?
5. What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most kids go home?
6. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
7. What are the housing options for freshmen?
8. Do many students live off campus?
9. Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
10. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
11. What's the security like on campus?
12. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
13. What are the most popular majors?
14. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
15. What support services are available (academic advisers, tutors, etc.)?
16. Do I need to bring my own computer?
17. What's the faculty like? How accessible are they outside of class?
18. Are there opportunities for internships?
19. Is there job placement help for graduates?
20. Are any big changes in the works that I should know about?

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