

College Visits This Spring



The spring semester is a popular time to visit colleges, especially as juniors start to narrow down their college lists, and seniors squeeze in some last-minute visits before admission decisions are announced at the end of March. The college visit is an important opportunity to not only get a live look at colleges, but also get some insider information that you might not otherwise find in your traditional research.

It's important for parents and students to plan ahead and do their research before visiting a college, but there are some questions that students should plan to ask while on tour.

What support does the school have for first-year students?

The transition into college life can be difficult for some students. For many it's their first time away from home and they're having to balance school, activities, and basic necessities like food, laundry, and more on their own. Many colleges offer support to first-year students through classes, like some of the courses offered through Boston College's First Year Experience program, How accessible are these programs? Do students find them helpful?

Where do students live?

Find out everything you can about freshmen housing, but also make sure you have a clear picture of what to expect past freshman year in regards to living arrangements.

How is the on-campus food?

This question is often overlooked, as students tend to be so concerned with other campus amenities they forget to ask about the basics. Are meal plans mandatory? Are meal plans accepted everywhere on campus? Can you get food on campus without a meal plan? Where's the best place to eat on campus? . This is especially important for students with dietary restrictions or food allergies.

Is Greek life a large part of the social life on campus?

The prevalence of Greek life on a campus can have a big impact on students' experience, and it's important to know whether or not a large (or small) Greek life presence will negatively or positively influence your college choice.

What study abroad opportunities are available to students?

Studying abroad can be an enriching experience for students, and many choose to study for a summer term, a semester, or even a year in a foreign country.? If studying abroad is something you'd like to do in college,

make sure you get a sense of what programs are offered and how it affects students' experience once they return.

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What is there to do off campus?

It's important to get a sense of the local community, as you won't spend all your time on campus. You'll be spending the next four years there, so find out what activities, events, sights, and more are available off campus.

If I can help with your college planning and college admission needs, please do not hesitate to email or call, better to plan now than wait till junior year.

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