

College Interviews

- A college interview is an opportunity for you to meet in person with an admissions representative. A personal interview can give you a chance to demonstrate your enthusiasm about the school and to articulate your interests and activities. Use this as a chance to explain any unusual or special circumstances that may not have been addressed in the application.
- You should check with each of your colleges to see if they recommend a personal interview and if they can accommodate you during your campus visit. For schools located a distance away, you may find area representatives or alumni who are more than happy to meet and discuss their college.
- If you do an interview, it will be considered an important, integral part of your application process. So, unless it is required, only interview if you are confident in presenting yourself and your ideas to an adult admissions officer.

The following suggestions may help you to "put your best foot forward" during the interview:

- Arrive on time and dress neatly.
- Be yourself - be relaxed.
- Bring a pen and paper to take notes, do not use your cell phone.
- Leave your parents outside, unless the interviewer asks to have them present with you.
- Smile and offer a handshake upon introduction.
- Remain standing until you are asked to be seated.
- Answer all questions fully and frankly.
- Be ready to discuss your career interests, future plans, extracurricular activities, and books you have read.
- Be prepared to share your SAT/ACT scores, freshman, sophomore, and junior grades with the admissions counselor.
- Be prepared with 2-3 quality questions for the representative. Do not ask questions which you should have answered yourself by reading the college website, such as cost, number of students, freshman requirements, etc.
- Follow-up your visit, with a prompt thank you note to the admissions officer with whom you have met.

Types of questions you might ask are as follows:

- When is the faculty available for help?
- (For those students who are interested) What is the strength of religious activities on campus?

- What percentage of students pursue graduate study?
- How strong is my particular major at this college?
- I've been active in the Drama Club while I was in high school (whatever your primary activities were in high school which you would like to pursue in college). How strong is the Drama Club at your college?
- What kind of placement does the school have in graduate and professional schools? Is there active recruitment from various business firms seeking four year graduates? Is there a placement office with up-to-date listings of various jobs available in education, industry, etc.?
- Is there a Career Development Center that actively works with students to assist them with their career plans?
- How does the college assist with internship opportunities?

Below is a sampling of questions and discussion you might encounter:

- Why have you chosen this particular college?
- Tell me about your high school...What is the size of the classes, what percentage of students attend college, what type of courses are offered?...etc.
- What do you expect to gain from a college education?
- How have you prepared yourself for college?
- How would you describe yourself to someone who didn't know you?
- How have you spent your summer and free time during the school year?