

# The College Visit and Interview



Many schools have done away with the formal interview process, but consider your visit to their campus as an informal interview. No matter how your school views it, be prepared! We have listed a few tips to help make your day run smoothly and as stress-free as possible.

**Get a good night's sleep the night before.** Arrive to your visit fresh and energetic. Call ahead to get directions to the campus, and allow yourself enough time to deal with traffic and getting lost. If you are not well rested, chances are things like traffic will rattle you, and this will show during your meeting.

**Greet your interviewer with a smile.** Although you may be nervous, never let them see you sweat! Greet everyone that you meet with a smile and a firm handshake.

**Dress professionally.** Although a formal suit may not be required, you certainly do not want to show up in cut-offs and flip-flops. You should dress in something comfortable, yet appropriate, that will not offend those that you come in contact with. Try to stay away from clothes that are too tight, too short, or that may have offensive language or sayings on them. They

may take you on a walking tour of the campus, so wear comfortable shoes. Limit yourself on jewelry, make-up and cologne as well.

**Do your research.** Come prepared with any questions that you may have about the school, programs of study and campus life... admissions officers love that! It shows them that you have a real interest in their institution. When they ask you questions, do not limit yourself to 'yes' and 'no' answers, but engage them in conversation regarding the topic. Always speak clearly and loud enough for everyone to hear and understand what you are saying. Make eye contact with those that you are speaking with, and try to relax and not seem tense.



**Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.** This is your opportunity to WOW them with all the great things that you have accomplished. There may also be some things that weren't that great, but put a positive spin on them. Overcoming adversity is always something to be proud of.

**Say 'thank you'.** Thank your host for taking the time to meet and speak with you before you leave for the day. If possible, send them a thank you card either by mail, or by email as a follow up.