

Take a college tour

Sure, you can tour a campus online these days. But there's nothing better than a campus tour when you're trying to get a feel for the college or university. In order to make the most of your college tour you have to be prepared. Follow these steps and you'll be a college tour pro!

Be prepared

Research its outstanding programs, faculty-student ratio, educational mission — even its mascot. Know the competitive sports teams and major rivals. Prepare yourself with all of the pertinent, public info about the college.

SCHOOL NOTES:

Read while you wait

Once you arrive on campus, check out the bulletins, pick up a copy of the college newspaper or magazine and don't forget to grab a few brochures from the admissions office. This will help familiarize you with the campus basics, so you can focus on more in depth questions while touring.

Ask questions

Sometimes the excitement of the tour can lead to lots of distractions, which means you may forget to ask questions. Be sure to create a list of questions before the

Questions to ask the tour guide:

- Why did you choose this college?
- What was your best experience here?
- Why did you stay after freshman year?
- What's your plan for after graduation?

tour and keep them handy the day of. Reference it regularly to make sure you've got all the answers. If a question hasn't been addressed, ask it!

YOUR QUESTIONS:

Talk to students

Some of your best feedback will come from students who are actually at the college! They are living the life you may live everyday, so who better to give you insight on the day-to-day activities on campus? Visit the campus coffee shop or commons and ask students what the campus is really like (It's OK to leave the tour guide and/or parents behind on this one!)

While on the tour

Your tour guide will be an actual student at the college you are visiting, so be prepared to ask questions.

After the tour

Write down five impressions of the school. Consider the campus personality, diversity of the student body, the size of the lecture halls and student interaction. These little mental reminders will help you compare colleges later.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

Find your match

Get matched up with your perfect college at NextStepU.com/Match

