

# GUIDELINES

Las Lomas High School Counseling Department



## VISITING A COLLEGE

Should you visit a college? Absolutely! You wouldn't dream of buying a house without seeing it. College may be your home for four years. The best time to visit is before you apply for admissions. If this is not possible, then you should visit the colleges that accept you before you decide on where you will go to college.

### HOW DO YOU ORGANIZE A COLLEGE VISIT?

You are encouraged to consider the following steps in organizing your visit to a college campus.

1. Select four or five colleges that interest you. Your interest may be based on several different factors...geographical location, student body size, academic majors, sports programs, family background, financial cost, talking to a college representative, reading the catalog or hearing what a friend thinks about the college.
2. Do your homework about a college before you visit the campus. The Counseling Office and College/Career Center at your high school have a good deal of information about colleges. Look at the college catalog to find out basic information about student population, academic programs, admissions requirements, tuition costs and housing arrangements. You should know some basic factual information before your visit, so you can ask more important questions during your visit.
3. Visit a local college first. Before you spend time and money traveling to a distant campus, you should visit a local college. There are many colleges in the San Francisco Bay Area where you could take a one day trip and practice your visiting skills.
4. Find someone to share your college visiting. You are encouraged to travel with a friend who is also involved in planning for college. You should be able to help each other ask questions during the visit and share your reactions after you leave the campus.
5. Try to visit while college students are on campus. You get a better feeling for a campus if you visit while college is in session rather than during a summer vacation. Check the college calendar; it is possible that the college may be in session while you have a high school vacation.
6. Ask about staying on campus overnight. Some colleges have programs that let you stay on campus overnight in one of the student residence halls, go to college classes that interest you, eat in the dining halls and talk with college students. You are encouraged to ask about this type of program because it is one of the best ways to find out about life on campus.
7. Call ahead for a campus tour and admissions office appointment. Most colleges have regularly scheduled campus tours conducted by student guides. You should check the catalog or phone the campus to make sure of the time of these tours. You may also phone the admissions office to make an appointment with an admissions representative.
8. Plan to visit only one or two campuses each day. When you travel some distance you may be tempted to visit several colleges a day, so you can see as much as possible. You should stay longer on each campus and take time to evaluate your impressions. It is easy to get campuses mixed up if you visit too many.
9. Show up on time for the campus tour and admissions appointment. As you walk around campus try to imagine what it would be like to be a student at this college. Be sure to ask questions for this is your time to find out important information about the college. Relax, and enjoy your visit!
10. Visit a former student. One of the best persons to talk with at a college is someone who graduated from the same high school that you attend. Each year a Follow Up Study is made for the high school graduating class and shows the colleges that students plan to attend the following year. You can look at this information in the Counseling Office and College/Career Center and see if any recent graduates are going to the colleges you plan to visit.

## WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD YOU ASK DURING A VISIT?

You should ask questions that interest you, questions that are not readily available in school publications. When you did your homework for a visit, you found out about some basic factual information, so the questions you ask during a visit should be ones that involve opinions, impressions and information that especially concern you.

Some possible questions are...

- Where are the residence halls and dining rooms for first year students?
- What do students like about living on campus?
- What are some of the living problems faced by new students?
- What do students say about the food?
- Where do students usually live when they are sophomores?
- Who is available to help you choose the proper classes?
- What chance do you have of getting all your classes?
- Do professors or student assistants teach most of the classes?
- How many students are going to be in my classes?
- How much study time is needed to earn good grades?
- What are some of the most popular courses?
- What department has the most student majors?
- Is there room in the library to study?
- Does the college provide computers for use by students?
- What problems do students have in adjusting to college courses?
- Do many students drop out after the first year for academic problems?
- Do most students stay on campus on weekends?
- What kinds of concerts, plays, movies, dances are available?
- What special social events take place on campus?
- Do many students go to the football and basketball games?
- Do you have an intramural sports program?
- What about personal safety walking around the campus?
- What is the alcohol and drug situation among students?
- What kind of help is available if you have a personal problem?
- What do students like most about the college?
- Why do some students drop out or transfer to another college?
- Would you encourage me to come to this college?

## VISITING A UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS...

Many students plan to attend one of the University of California campuses. Noted below are phone numbers & websites.

UC BERKELEY	(510) 642-5215	<a href="http://www.berkeley.edu/visitors">www.berkeley.edu/visitors</a>
UC DAVIS	(530) 752-8111	<a href="http://www.ucdavis.edu/visiting">www.ucdavis.edu/visiting</a>
UC IRVINE	(949) 824-4636	<a href="http://www.campustours.uci.e">www.campustours.uci.e</a>
UCLA	(310) 825-8764	<a href="http://www.admissions.ucla.edu/tours">www.admissions.ucla.edu/tours</a>
UC MERCED	(209) 228-7637	<a href="http://www.admissions.ucmerced.edu/tours-uc-merced">www.admissions.ucmerced.edu/tours-uc-merced</a>
UC RIVERSIDE	(951) UCR-TOUR	<a href="http://www.my.ucr.edu">www.my.ucr.edu</a>
UC SAN DIEGO	(858) 822-1455	<a href="http://www.admissions.ucsd.edu/tours">www.admissions.ucsd.edu/tours</a>
UC SANTA BARBARA	(805) 893-2881	<a href="http://www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visitucsb">www.admissions.ucsb.edu/visitucsb</a>
UC SANTA CRUZ	(831) 459-4118	<a href="http://www.admissions.ucsc.edu/campustours">www.admissions.ucsc.edu/campustours</a>

**AFTER YOUR COLLEGE VISIT:** You should take time after your visit to make some notes. You are encouraged to write down your own impressions and the answers to your questions right away, while they are fresh in your mind. If you are traveling with a friend, then you may compare your feelings with the other person and talk about your different impressions. When you get home, put your notes with your other college planning information so you may use them in the future and share them with others.

Good luck with visiting a college!