

TIPS FOR YOUR COLLEGE VISITS

by Rachel B. Sobel, Ph.D., College Consultant

Special to Hundreds of Heads – March 2008 - www.hundredsofheads.com

There are numerous ways to gather information about a college. You can read about the college statistics (how many students attend from what parts of the country, the average test scores and GPA of the current freshmen class, most popular majors/programs, ongoing research opportunities, etc.). You can even take a virtual campus tour. But, nothing can beat an actual visit in helping you determine whether or not a school is a good fit for you. Summertime visits are equally valuable. While the lousy weather and volume of students may be missing, you are still able to get a clear sense of the campus and campus life.

Tips for your college visits:

- You are on a fact-finding mission. Therefore, get the facts. Are you comfortable in this type of community urban/suburban/rural? Is this campus too big/small? Does this campus feel right? (You just know when you're on a campus if it is right for you or not.)
- Let the colleges know that you are coming. For many college tours and information sessions you do not need an appointment. However, colleges track your interest so let them know you are interested.
- After the tour, spend some time in the campus center to get an unvarnished view of the college. Grab a soda with some students who are milling around and ask them about their experiences at the college.
- For students with LD/ADHD: Make an appointment to meet with a representative from the Office of Student Support Services to determine whether the college can provide the level of service you need to be successful.
- When you are back in the car, write down your initial reaction to the school. Ask yourself, "Do I want to come back here tomorrow?" "Could I see myself spending four years here?" Finally, "Is this college worth keeping on my college list or do I hit the delete key?"