



COLLEGE FAIR TIPS FOR STUDENTS

College fairs are one of the best opportunities you have to visit with a wide variety of institutions of Higher Education or other career fields. The best part—they come to you! Take advantage of this great chance by visiting as many booths as you can and using your time wisely. Here are a few pointers to help you when you attend our college fair:

It's ok to say no if you aren't interested...

Some colleges won't have your major; others may be in a location you don't want. Don't feel obligated to visit with the college rep if you have no interest in their college. If you aren't sure, though, then stick around and find out what that college has to offer you!

Take information you need, and ask for whatever you're interested in...

Colleges have a lot of brochures and pamphlets on their table. If you aren't sure which pieces will be most helpful for you, ask the representative which pieces you should take. They'll guide you to the pieces best fit for you, based on the conversation you've had. If there's a specific piece you're interested in, such as financial aid, ask which brochure will have the most helpful information about financial aid. Remember that most college websites contain whatever information you're looking for as well.

Prepare yourself with a list of questions...

Not sure which questions to ask? Look through our list of suggested questions to ask at college fairs. Remember, too, that you can always call or email representatives after the fair to ask any questions you forgot or didn't know to ask.

Talk to someone ahead of time about what they wish they would have known/asked...

Chances are, someone you know has gone to college. Ask them what questions they wish they had asked at college fairs. Maybe they knew they would be living in on-campus housing and wished they had asked the college rep what kind of on-campus housing was available. Find out what they wish they would have asked to discover what might be helpful for you to ask.

Don't be afraid to leave your friends...

It's doubtful that your friends are going to want the same major, academic and social setting, and extracurricular activities you will want. Don't follow your friends around to where they would like to go to school—visit schools that interest you!

Don't be afraid to have colleges scan you, even if they aren't your top choice...

It's always best to have safety nets. Even if a school isn't number one on your list, allow them to scan your information. You may be surprised that a school you hadn't considered meets your exact criteria.

Use your time wisely and visit as many booths as possible...

Unfortunately, college fairs allow a limited amount of time for you to meet with the college reps. Don't spend all your time at one or two booths; make rounds and have brief conversations with all of the schools that interest you. For some schools, this may be the only chance you'll have to visit face-to-face with a representative.

Don't steal pens—without talking to the representative first...

Colleges come to fairs equipped with all kinds of knick knacks and goodies. These are often free for you to take, but don't make a game of it. If you're interested in a school and visit with the representative, ask if you can have one of their pens. You may lose their business card, but most colleges have the main phone number and/or website on the pen!

Get the rep's contact information to follow up...

Representatives are available to visit with you both inside and outside of college fairs. If you're interested in a school, ask the rep for their business card or contact information. Don't hesitate to email or call them with any questions you may have had after the college fairs. If there are booths you didn't get around to visiting during the college fairs, stop by and ask the rep for their contact information to email them any questions you may have about their school, or to find out if they'll be visiting your high school sometime in the fall.

Be mindful of rep's time and other students' needs...

College reps love to chat with prospective students, and are happy to answer your questions. However, the reps can only designate so much time to each prospective student at a college fair. Please feel free to visit with the college rep, but if you see a line forming behind you, grab the rep's information and email them after the college fair with questions you were unable to ask at the fair.