

Making the Most of Your College Visit



Academy of Holy Angels College Planning Night

Jennifer Olsen Krengel, Hamline University

Agenda

- Where to Start?
- Consider Characteristics
- Identify Options – for Colleges and Visits
- Types and Timing of Visits
- Develop Questions
- Final Thoughts

Where to Start?

- Know yourself
- Consider your strengths, passions, plans and goals
- Consider what is important to you and your family
- Develop a resume of activities and honors

Consider Characteristics

- Size
- Location
- Academic Programs
- Co-curricular Opportunities
- Mission Statement
- Outcomes and Preparation
- Environment
- Cost/Financial Aid

Identify College Options

- Create your list
- Talk with friends, family, educators and current college students
- Public and private
- Large and small
- First year student profiles
- Personality and fit vs. statistics and rankings

Identify Campus Visit Options

- Information Sessions
- Open House Events
- Individual Visits
- Interviews
- Virtual Options

Campus Visit Timing

- Junior year/summer
- Senior year fall/spring
- Before application
- After admission decisions are released
- After financial aid is received
- Consider costs (travel and time)
- Visit your top choices more than once.
You'll see campus in a different light each time!

Open House Events

- Offered at various stages of the search
 - Junior Programs
 - Scholarship Events
 - Fly-in Programs
 - Admitted Student Events
- Campus tours
- Sessions offered on a variety of topics
- May include receptions or information fairs

Individual Visits

- Campus tour
- Meet with a professor
- Meet with a coach or fine arts director
- Talk with an admission counselor
- Try out the dining options
- Visit a class
- Stay overnight with a current student

Interviews

- Some colleges will encourage; some may require
- Share concerns and academic blemishes with your admission counselor
- Come prepared to share your success stories, accomplishments and aspirations
- Have your own questions!

Campus Tours

- Generally led by current students
- Highlights:
 - Academics
 - Housing/dining
 - Student life
- Look and listen for signs of:
 - Active learning
 - Student-faculty interaction
 - Student engagement

Develop Questions

- Go back to where you started
- What is important to you?
- What is important to your family?
- Avoid asking questions that can be easily answered on the web
- Instead of yes/no questions, ask for stories and examples

Develop Questions

- Academic environment
- Experiential learning opportunities
- Faculty interaction and support
- Student life
- Traditions
- Emphasis on personal development
- Retention and graduation rates

Final Thoughts

- There are many great colleges
- This is your decision; take the time to explore your options
- Be open to the intangibles
- You are in control; make the most of your college visits
- “Fit” is what matters

Questions?

Jennifer Olsen Kregel
Director of Undergraduate Admission
Hamline University
jolsenkregel01@hamline.edu
651-523-2997

THANK YOU

