

# LOGICPREP GUIDE TO COLLEGE VISITS



VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY  
Nashville, Tennessee





## TIPS FOR VISIT DAY

YALE  
UNIVERSITY  
New Haven, CT

- ❑ **TO BEGIN**, register online (or by calling the school's admissions office) for an information session and tour. It's important to secure a spot ahead of time.
- ❑ **BEFORE YOUR VISIT**, reach out to your regional representatives and professors in your academic area of interest to schedule meetings during your time on campus. If you are a Junior or Senior, check to see if they're offering on-campus interviews. If it's not possible to schedule a meeting in advance, many schools encourage students to stop by the admissions office and speak informally with an admissions officer. Always be dressed appropriately and prepared with questions in case you should have the opportunity to talk with someone.
- ❑ **WHEN YOU ARRIVE** at the admissions office, be sure to check in by signing your name, as many schools track demonstrated interest. Colleges do take attendance! This is particularly relevant for international students. You want to do everything you can to communicate to the school that you are interested and will go if admitted.
- ❑ **DURING THE INFORMATION SESSION**, ask questions if it seems appropriate (e.g. if the speaker opens up the floor for Q&A). Though not necessary (and schools do not track student participation), students may find it helpful to engage in the conversation. In general, don't ask any questions that can easily be answered online. See page 4 for good questions to ask admissions officers and tour guides.



UNIVERSITY  
OF VIRGINIA  
Charlottesville, Virginia



SYRACUSE  
UNIVERSITY  
Syracuse, NY

- **AFTER THE INFORMATION SESSION**, thank the admissions officer for his/her time and ask for his/her business card. In addition, be sure to ask for the card of anyone else you meet (professor, department head, regional representative, etc.) so that you can send a thank you note the following day.
- **THROUGHOUT YOUR TOUR**, take lots of detailed notes! Many schools ask as a part of their supplement, “Why is X the perfect school for you?” or “Why do you want to attend X?” Personal anecdotes from campus visits are excellent additions to these types of essays!
- **AFTER YOUR TOUR**, wander around campus. Get a sense of what it would be like to enroll there. Talk to as many people as possible! These could be current students who once went to your high school or total strangers—but while your tour guide is employed by the admissions office to present a positive view of the school, students you encounter on campus are often excited to speak with visitors and will offer the most candid replies. See page 5 for good questions to ask current students.
- **REFLECT UPON YOUR TIME** on campus. You may be going on up to 6 to 7 college tours in a week—invariably, the memory of each visit will fade. Use the brief survey on page 6 to ask yourself the most relevant questions as you complete your tours—both to help decide whether the school is a good fit and to differentiate that school in your mind when it comes time to apply in fall.



# QUESTIONS FOR ADMISSIONS

## TO ASK YOUR ADMISSIONS REP OR TOUR GUIDE

- What are the strongest departments? What are the most popular majors?
- What is the average class size? For Freshmen? For upperclassmen?
- How are most classes taught—In seminar form? Big lectures? Big lectures with smaller breakout sessions?
- How would you describe the “typical” student here?
- What kind of student is generally the most successful/happy at the college?
- If you should change your mind about what you want to study, what is the process for switching majors or transferring colleges? At what point are you allowed to transfer (after freshman year, etc.)?
- What do students do after they graduate? Do they go on to postgraduate studies? What percentage is employed upon graduation?
- What kinds of cultural, religious, sports, and literary events are offered on campus?
- What are the year’s biggest social events at the college?
- What percentage of students remains on campus during the weekends?
- What kinds of living options are available? Dorms? Foreign language houses? Private apartments? What percentage of students lives in each type of housing? Is on-campus housing required for students? Can freshmen select their own roommates?
- What support services are available to students? General counseling? Post-graduation planning? Health care? Tutoring if needed? Help finding off-campus employment during the school year and during the summer? Junior year abroad or at another U.S. institution?
- What are the “hot” issues on campus lately?



HARVARD  
UNIVERSITY  
Cambridge, MA



# QUESTIONS FOR

# CURRENT

# STUDENTS

## TO GET A CANDID PICTURE OF STUDENT LIFE

- What is your favorite thing about the school?
- What is one thing you would change about the school?
- Why did you choose to attend?
- What do you wish you knew about the school during the admissions process?
- What surprised you most about the school?
- How flexible are the academic offerings?
- What has been your favorite class? Who's your favorite professor?
- What are the different residential and dining options on campus?
- Do most people live on campus? Is there a strong sense of campus community?
- What does a typical Saturday night look like here?

# INSIDER

# POINTERS

- Whenever possible, try to schedule your visit for when school is in session to get a sense of the “vibe” on campus.
- Eat lunch in the student center to get a sense of how students interact outside of their classes.
- Pick up a copy of the school newspaper to see what's happening on campus—be sure to check out the editorials/op-eds.
- Sneak into a large lecture. (You can even reach out to the admissions office or department coordinator ahead of time for class schedules—just be sure to check each college's website.)
- Attend an athletic event, theatrical performance, or dance show, or visit campus art galleries and museums.
- Hang out in the library—especially the one that might be connected to your department of interest.
- Most tours don't give prospective students access to dorms, but try to get a peek into the Freshmen living situation on campus.

STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY  
Stanford, CA



PRINCETON  
UNIVERSITY  
Princeton, NJ

# COLLEGE EVALUATION

## TO ASK YOURSELF AFTER YOUR VISITS

### ACADEMICS

- Are there any programs that sound really interesting to you?

- 
- How available are professors to undergraduate students?

- 
- How big are most classes?

- 
- Do the students take their classwork seriously?

- 
- Which courses would you be most excited to take?
- 

### STUDENT LIFE

- Do the students walking around campus seem happy? stressed? social?

- 
- Do you see at least two or three people that look like they could be your friends?

- 
- Are there any clubs or groups on campus that you would want to be a part of?

- 
- What's the social life like?

- 
- What is the international student community like? (for international students)
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### CAMPUS

- Is there lots of activity happening on campus?

- 
- Do you feel comfortable walking around there?

- 
- Does most social life seem to happen on campus or off?
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