

College Fair Checklist

WORK SHEET

College fairs are an opportunity to meet with college representatives without the time and expense of a road trip or plane ride. Much like a campus visit, in order to get the most from the college fair, it is wise to do a bit of planning.

BEFORE THE FAIR:

- ☐ **Pre-register:** If the fair offers it, pre-register for priority access and to make quick information requests from colleges.
- ☐ **Print out your Student Admittance Pass:** Bring it with you to the college fair along with a pen and notebook to take notes.
- ☐ **Develop Your Target List:** Check out the list of colleges attending the college fair and build your target list. Do a bit of research on college websites to familiarize yourself with their offerings.
- ☐ **Create your Criteria List:** Decide what is really important to you in a college.
 - Do you want to attend a two or four-year school? Public or private?
 - What size school do you think you would thrive in: small, medium, or large?
 - What programs of study are you considering or exploring?
 - How far from home do you want to go?
 - Do you wish to participate in any specific extra-curricular activities or athletics?
 - Do you want to attend a school in an urban, suburban, or rural environment?
 - Do you require any special services?

DURING THE FAIR:

- ☐ Review the list of sample questions on the back of this student checklist to develop a list of questions that matches your criteria.
- ☐ Be open-minded and visit a variety of schools.
- ☐ If the fair is crowded, be prepared to ask your most important questions of college representatives and allow others a chance to do the same.
- ☐ Keep your registration sheet on hand for representatives to scan if you'd like additional information.
- ☐ Collect college information, as well as business cards or contact information for the schools that are interesting to you.

AFTER THE FAIR:

- ☐ **Information overload:** By the time the fair is over, you should have a bag filled with information about colleges —and a possible case of information overload.
- ☐ **Organize for success:** Find a place to organize your college data. Read through your notes, write down contacts, and scan the brochures and catalogs.
- ☐ **Follow up:** Consider calling or emailing schools you found interesting. For more information, schedule a campus visit, or do some additional online research.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE COLLEGE FAIR

Choose the ones that match your criteria. Remember that there are no trivial questions.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Which departments are considered to be the strongest at your school?
- Which programs are unique to your school?
- As an undergraduate, how easy is it to participate in research and/or internships?

ATHLETICS

- What are your athletic facilities like?
- Is tutoring available to athletes?
- Is it difficult to play more than one sport?
- What recreational sports facilities do you have?

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Are there any programs that help first-time students transition to college?
- Do you have services for students with ADD/ADHD or other Learning Differences?
- Do you offer safe-dining alternatives for those with food allergies or intolerances?

CAMPUS LIFE

- What is the campus like on weekends?
- How many students live on campus?
- What are the campus traditions?
- How safe is the campus and the surrounding areas?
- Is there anything unique about your campus?

ADMISSIONS

- Do you offer student interviews? If so when?
- What qualities do you look for in a prospective student?

GREEK LIFE

- Is there a Greek system on campus?
- Is Greek housing available?

HOUSING

- What type of housing is available?
- How are roommates assigned?
- Is housing guaranteed for first-time students?

CLASSROOM

- What is an average class size during first and second years? Junior and senior years?
- Will graduate students teach any of my classes?

OTHER

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance and is set against a dark background.