

College Options Exploration

Selecting a college or university to attend can be a difficult process. It is important that you select the best fit for you. It is important to examine yourself and understand your interests, and what it is you expect to gain from the college experience. The type, size and location of the school will have a huge impact on your success there and whether or not you enjoy it.

Research

Many college and university websites offer large amounts of information about the school and some even have links to virtual tours. College guides are also a very good source of information as they compare colleges. Be aware that each guide and website have their own viewpoints and biases.

College Representative Campus Visits

Visits to our campus by school representatives is an excellent way for you to discover information about a specific college and make a connection with a school representative-a face to an email and name! We encourage you to take the time to visit with all college representatives that visit our campus.

College Fairs

Each Fall, Knox County Schools host a large college and career fair that is available to our students. Students are encouraged to register for and attend this event. It is normally held on a school day (excused absence with proof of attendance); and is held in the Jacob Building on Magnolia Avenue (near Chilhowee Park).

College Visits

Financing your college education will be one of the most expensive purchases of your lifetime. As such, it stands to reason that you will want to conduct thorough research of your potential purchase.

Visiting a college campus is critical to the college exploration process-it may appear to be the perfect school for you on the internet and paper; however, a visit may provide you with other information and thoughts.

All KCS Seniors are allowed up to 3 college visits during their Senior year. Once you have narrowed your choices down, scheduling a personal visit is very beneficial. You will need to provide the KCS Main Office with a signed letter from the college or university you visited to be excused upon your return to school.

Planning Your Visit

- Schedule your visit well in advance directly through the College/university admissions office. Request that you be allowed to attend a class, meet a professor, a financial aid representative, and a coach if interested in an athletic program. Many schools have a link on their websites to schedule a visit. If you cannot find it, or are having difficulty doing so, call the admissions office for assistance.

- Conduct sufficient research on the college prior to your visit. Show up prepared with a list of questions that you have and need answered.
- Follow along on a campus map during your tour to familiarize yourself with where you are on campus; and get a feel for the size of the school.

During the Visit

Remember that first impressions are lasting impressions and that you only have one chance to present a favorable one. The impression that you desire to show them and leave them with is one of a smart, enthusiastic, and self-confident young person.

- Ask any and all questions you may have, especially of the student leading your tour.
- Take pictures of the campus, it will help you remember specifics and make your decision easier as you compare and decide on a school later.
- Visit the dorms and eat in the student cafeteria. Check out the various dorm options.

What to Look For

- How are students spending their time; studying, socializing, recreation?
- Do the students look and appear happy?
- What is the typical student attire? Is it semi-formal, or jeans and t-shirt?
- What is the atmosphere on campus-friendly and cordial, or stand offish?
- Ask to look in a dorm room-view size, layout, what students have in their rooms-computer, TV, min-refrigerator, etc.
- What amenities are available on campus? Gym, restaurants, theatre, etc.
- What amenities are available near campus?
- How do students get around campus-walk, bike, car, bus, etc. If bus, what is the rate-free or an expense?
- Potential job opportunities-both on and off campus. Ask about work-study programs.

What to Ask

Social Concerns:

- Is there a Greek system on Campus (Fraternities/Sororities)?
- What activities are available for students on campus?
- Does the college sponsor concerts, speakers, etc?
- How good is the food in the student dining facilities?
- What do students do on weekends?
- Is there a study abroad or at a sister school program available?

Academic Concerns:

- What is the application process? Are essays, interviews or the writing portion of the ACT required?
- What is the Freshmen acceptance rate?
- What is the overall student retention rate?
- What percentage of students graduate in 4 years?
- Does the school offer an Honors Program? If yes, in what areas?
- What are the most popular majors traditionally?
- Does the faculty make itself available to students after class?

Campus Facilities:

- Is it required to reside in the dorms as a Freshmen?

- Can I live in the dorms after Freshmen year?
- Are single rooms available?
- May Freshmen have a car on campus?
- Is there adequate parking on campus?

Student Specific questions:

- On average, how many hours a week do you study?
- Is it easy to get academic help if I need it?
- What do you enjoy/like best about this college?
- What is your least favorite thing about this college?
- What was your biggest surprise, good or bad when you got here?
- Do you feel safe on this campus-even at night?

College Visit Checklist

College Name

City/State

Public or Private School

Undergraduate Enrollment Numbers

Admissions Point of Contact

Name

Email

Phone Number

Admissions Information

Deadline

Average Test Scores

Average GPA

Tests Required

Any specific coursework requirements

Majors offered that you are interested in

Expenses

Tuition/Fees

Housing

Meal Plan(s)

Total Cost

Freshmen Residence Hall (Dorm) Requirement

Specific questions I have:

Immediately after the visit, you want to note your impressions and record the answers to your questions. Do this while it is fresh in your mind. Try not to let the weather on the day you visit to affect your overall judgement.

Things that impressed me:

Things I have doubts about:

The best part of the visit was:

The worst part of the visit was:

Can you see yourself on this campus at this school?

YES

NO

Other observations/comments:
