

Campus Visits – Podcast Transcript

Opening:

Hi, my name is Kyra Mathews, from the Oregon Student Access Commission, also called OSAC for short. Today, I'd like to talk to you about campus visits and some tips to get the most out of your visit.

Body:

When you are trying to narrow down your school or program of interest, one of the best ways to do this is through a college visit or tours of college campuses. Starting at any time, usually a year or two before planning to attend, you can begin checking out potential campuses that you are interested in. Visiting a campus can be the determining factor when trying to decide where to attend. If you don't like the campus, then it probably isn't the best fit for you. It isn't out of the question to visit a campus more than once – I took three tours of the University of Oregon campus before I began my education there. Campus visits are not required to make a college decision, and some students don't visit the school they have chosen until orientation and that's ok.

Tours are a great way to get a feel for the campus—to see how far apart buildings are, where residence halls are, what community life is near the campus, etc., can be figured out by simply visiting the campus. Moreover, tour guides are usually current students, so they can answer any of your tough questions. They usually give other information about the campus, too. They talk about historical landmarks and events, good places to eat or visit, and even some personal experiences they have had on campus. Visiting the college's website is the best way to find out about all college visiting days and tours, and how to schedule your personal campus tour.

When visiting a campus, brainstorming some questions beforehand is a good idea. Some frequently asked questions from students are: what is the atmosphere of the campus like? What are the popular majors here? What about [insert major here]? What is the reputation of the faculty? What about graduate students, do they teach a lot of classes? What's the student-faculty ratio like? What study areas are around campus? Are there recreational facilities? What is the study abroad program like?

If possible, visit as many campuses that you are interested in as you can. Most campuses hold tours for groups of students. Sometimes groups are based on what major you are interested in, so you get some insight to where the main office is for your major and get lots of information about the major. Tours will sometimes include events, such as career fairs, overnight-stays, and interactive games with your group members

Personally, visiting the UO was the deciding factor for me. Walking around campus and seeing all of what UO had to offer me made me feel like it could be the right place for me. I felt comfortable, and the beauty of the campus never gets old. Also, I didn't want to attend college out-of-state, so the UO was perfect in more ways than one. It was my gut feeling at the UO visit that got me to apply and attend there, and after my first year, I know I made the right choice.

Conclusion:

Choosing where to attend college is a big choice, no matter how far away from home it is or if it is a vocational or technical school or standard university, the choice is still difficult. Being prepared with questions and seeing as many campuses that you are interested in as possible can really aid you in making the best possible choice for starting your education and training beyond high school. Visit the school's website for information on campus visiting activities that are happening and to schedule your campus tour. Oh yeah, and make sure you wear comfortable shoes!

Closing:

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important topic. For more podcast topics, please visit www.OregonStudentAid.gov. From all of us here at the Oregon Student Access Commission, this is Kyra Mathews. We look forward to helping you again soon.