

Attending College Fairs

Before the Fair

- Find out which colleges will be represented at the fair as well as other helpful information (such as where to park).
- Note which schools you'd like to learn more about and plan to visit the representatives from those schools first.
- Learn more about colleges by visiting their websites and looking at college guide books.
- If you don't yet know which colleges to research, ask your college counselor for advice or do a college search on collegeboard.org.
- Complete a list of questions you'd like to ask each representative.
- Colleges will typically have you fill out a *contact card* – save time by printing out labels with your full name, address, email, current school, graduation year, and areas of academic/extracurricular interest.
- Bring with you a pen, the list of colleges you want to learn more about, your list of questions, a notebook, your labels, and a small bag for materials.

At the Fair

- When you arrive, check in and get a nametag. You should also receive a map that shows where each college is located; if you can't find a certain school, ask a volunteer!
- Depending on the particular fair, you should be prepared for noise, distractions, and long lines at some of the tables (Perhaps circle back to those tables later).
- You should aim to take lead; walk up, introduce yourself, shake the representative's hand, ask your questions, state your interest in the college and why, and have a conversation.
- Be sure to introduce yourself to representatives from the colleges you are sure you want to apply to and to those that are harder for you to go and visit. Showing demonstrated interest in a school can really help your case.
- Remember to be polite and attentive and thank the admissions representative when your conversation is over.
- Ask for a business card before you leave so you can follow up with more questions that come to mind later.

After the Fair

- Review and organize the materials you collected.
- Send thank you notes to the college representatives who were especially helpful.
- Respond to any mailings from schools of interest that require action.
- Get on the mailing list at each school that has sparked your interest. You should be able to do this from the school's website.
- See if you can organize interviews with any representative from schools you are particularly interested in. Sometimes they are in town for a few days and are always interested in meeting with students if they have the time.

Contact Us

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