



WCA COUNSELOR CHATS

Topic: College Visits

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." - *Proverbs 3:5&6*

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to begin making college visits in the junior year. All Wesleyan students are allowed two college days in the junior year and two college days in the senior year. Also, there are many times such as fall teacher workdays, spring break, etc., that are great times for college visits. College day forms are available from homeroom teachers as well as in Guidance. These forms need to be signed by teachers BEFORE the college day and by someone in the admissions office on the day of the college visit. Students then return them to their homeroom teachers. Parents: this is the stage where serious business needs to take place. Sending students off on visits with their friends and no parents is probably not the best use of their time or of their college days.

Always make appointments in advance of college visits. Most colleges have visit coordinators and/or admissions counselors who will set up the visit to include tours, meetings with admissions counselors, possibly financial aid sessions, or whatever is requested. This is a great way to make each visit as beneficial as possible.

Be on time for college visits and dress appropriately. A good guideline is "business casual." This does NOT include shorts, tank tops, flip-flops, baggy pants, jeans with holes, etc. Students who appear to be mature and serious about what they are doing are treated accordingly!

Write thank-you notes after the visits to those people who facilitated your visits.

Be prepared to ask lots of questions and to make lots of observations. Tours are usually conducted by students who are very willing to tell you what they like and do not like about their schools. Try to eat a meal in the college dining facility to get an idea of what the food is like and to see how students interact with each other. Most colleges will give you a free pass to the dining hall if you ask for it. Following are some questions to ask and some things to look for.

Questions to ask:

1. What is the percentage of applicants accepted?
2. What is the percentage of first-year students who return as sophomores?
3. What is the percentage of entering students who actually graduate?
4. What is the percentage of first-year classes taught by graduate teaching assistants?
5. Stop several students and ask them about the school and their programs. Ask them if they were choosing a college today would this college be their first choice. Watch for their facial expressions and any hesitation in their voices.

Questions to ask (cont.):

6. What do students do on weekends?
7. Are there any Christian ministry groups (i.e., Campus Crusade, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, etc.) and are they active?

What to look for on a tour:

1. General appearance of the campus
2. Student attire (neat, messy, bizarre, etc.)
3. Friendliness (eye contact, offers to help, greetings)
4. Student conversations (topics, tone, classes, papers, books, parties)
5. Transportation (bikes, cars, foot, shuttles)
6. Faculty presence (office hours posted, open doors, student interaction)
7. Library (hours, easy access)
8. Laboratory and computing facilities (hours, easy access)
9. Fine arts facilities (studios, practice rooms, performances)
10. Residence halls (wired, singles, doubles, suites, coed, substance free, guaranteed housing)
11. Campus Security - what is the crime rate on campus