

Before You Go

√ **Make an Appointment**

Register online at the college's admissions website for a campus tour or information session.

√ **Take your Parents**

Your parents should visit the school with you. They are interested in your future and will surely have many questions as well. They can be extremely beneficial in determining which college to attend.

√ **Visit During Regular School Days**

See the school as it normally functions. Ask to sit in on a class. Try to arrange a tour of the dorms. Eat in the dining hall. Get a feel for the type of students that are there. Visits during the summer or during breaks do not give a full picture of the climate.

√ **Do Your Homework**

Review the college's website. Know what is offered to students and be somewhat familiar with the school before you visit. Make a list of questions to ask.

√ **Stop in Financial Aid**

You should make an appointment with a financial aid counselor if this is a concern of yours. Planning ahead can be beneficial.

√ **Talk to Students**

Quiz current students about their feelings about the school. Ask what they like, dislike, and if they would choose the same school again.

√ **Schedule an Interview**

Many colleges welcome you to interview, but some do not. Consider the requirements of each individual school, and take advantage of your visit and complete and interview with an admissions representative.

What to Look For

√ **Your Kind of People**

The student body should be excited and involved. Talk to as many students as possible to get a real flavor for the type of student on campus. Remember, you will have to live with these people for four years.

√ **Faculty**

Determine if the faculty is caring and warm. Speak to professors in your field of study and find out if they

are easily accessible to students. Check the students/faculty ratio.

√ **Facilities**

Check the dorm rooms and find out how many students per room. Inspect the classrooms to determine if they are clean, well lit, and spacious enough to spend nine months out of each year. Check the general upkeep of the campus, and the exteriors of the buildings.

√ **Study Space**

Check out study areas. Does the library provide ample study spaces? What about the dormitories...are there quiet lounges for study time?

√ **Community**

What is the town/city like that surrounds the campus? Are there activities? Public transportation? Churches? Are there places to walk/jog?

√ **Social Life**

Obviously, this is an important component in choosing a college. Investigate the school's calendar of events. What goes on during the weekends? Do students go home or stay? How would it affect you if it were a "suitcase" college?

Surviving the Interview

You should take this opportunity very seriously. Often times, your personal presentation can make or break your interview. It is also a time for you to evaluate the college and it's appropriateness for your needs.

Look your best. Dress professionally (NO jeans and sneakers!!), be on time, and bring with you an unofficial transcript, letters of recommendation, SAT scores, and a list of activities.

√ **Be Prepared**

Visit the school's website and avoid asking questions that are clearly answered in the literature. But don't be afraid to ask for more information and /or clarification. You will be asked to explain, in greater detail, about yourself. Not only your accomplishments and successes, but often your weaknesses. You may be asked the following questions:

- Why do you want to go to college?
- Why this college?
- Why should this college accept you?
What do you have to offer?
- Why do you want a college education?
- What book have you read lately?
- What do you do outside of school?
- What are your favorite courses? Why?
- "Tell me about yourself"?
- What are your weaknesses?
- What do you expect will be the hardest part of coming to college?

**Questions?
Meet with your
guidance counselor!
We are here to help!**

√ **Ask Some Questions**

- Ask about curriculum
- Do graduate assistants teach courses?
- What special attention do you give your students (e.g. advisors, counselors, advisors, orientation, etc.)
- Are there handicap facilities available?
- Do you have study abroad programs?
Exchange programs with other schools?
- What is the admissions process – do I stand a chance if I apply?
- What type of job placement do they have?

- What percentage of students continue on to graduate school? Employment?
- Investigate the co-curricular activities.
- Ask about living arrangements. Are there coed dorms? Is there any special interest housing?
- Ask the question that is bothering you. This is your chance to ask pointed questions.

Take some time to prepare your answers to these questions before you go for your interview. Practice with your parents or guidance counselor. Being articulate and well organized in your responses can only serve to enhance the impression you make.

During the interview, try to be natural and relaxed. Maintain your composure and make eye contact. It is most important that you are honest. Giving false information will work against you later on if the interviewer does his research. This is the time that you sell yourself. If you have a particular strength that is not brought out during the interview, bring it out!

Record the name of the interviewer, and take the time to write a polite thank you note. It is good manners to thank them for their time, and it also helps to reinforce a positive impression with the interviewer.

Decisions, Decisions

√ **Keep Notes**

Keep a list of your questions and write the responses down.

√ **Evaluate Yourself**

Determine what you are looking for academically. How difficult should the school be? How large? Where? Coed or same sex? What are the costs and what can I realistically afford? Do I want to live far away or close to my family? Do I want to live on campus or off?

√ **Determine the Cost**

If you have financial need, it may cost more out of your pocket for private schools vs. public colleges. Spend some time discussing with your parents your financial picture and set realistic goals.

Library			
Job Placement			
Career Counseling			
Practicum/Internship			
Graduate School Placement			
Advising Program			
College Cost			
Financial Aid			
Admission Chances			
Handicap Accessibility			
Student Services			
Medical Services			

A = Adequate
S = Strong
W = Weak

without ever having seen it...why would you do that with your college? You should spend time on a campus before you commit to two or four years!

Refer to this guide as you begin to investigate colleges and schedule interviews.

And as always, see your guidance counselor for further information.



A Planning Guide for Students

	College Name			
Checklist				
Curriculum				
Class Sizes				
Caring Faculty				
Accessibility of Faculty				
The Student Body				
Residence Halls				
Social Life				
Co-Curricular Activities				
Proximity to Home				
Surrounding Community				

As you begin the college application process, you should make it a point to visit all potential schools. A campus visit could have the greatest impact on determining which college you will choose. Imagine moving into a new house

The College Visit & Interview

Timberlane Regional High School
Guidance Department