

What to Bring:

- **A camera:** During your tour, snap pictures of interesting places you discover on campus. The camera on your smartphone is great, but make sure you have enough space for lots of photos. These snapshots will come in handy down the road after you've completed multiple college visits and need help remembering certain places or details from other tours. Maybe looking back at an image of that pretty quad will even inspire you to get a head start on your application!
- **A notebook and pen:** There's nothing wrong with having a good old notebook and pen on hand to make note of important pieces of information during an info session or tour. Making a physical note of dates and deadlines is always useful—a planner can come in handy here as well. You can also jot down any questions that occur to you, as well as names of intriguing speakers or programs.
- **Weather-appropriate clothing and shoes:** Comfort is key when touring a campus. Leave the high heels and blister-inducing flats behind, as you'll certainly be doing a lot of walking and will need to keep up with the tour group. Make sure you check the weather before arriving on campus and bring anything (i.e. an umbrella, mittens, or sunscreen) that may come in handy during your visit.
- **A student's contact info:** Maybe a family friend or former high school classmate is enrolled at the college you're touring, but tracking him or her down the day of your visit will likely prove difficult. If there's a student you'd like to meet up with, get in touch a week or so before your visit in order to compare schedules. The day of, make sure you have his or her cell phone number in tow—you may have more trouble than you anticipated finding him or her in a specific dorm or dining hall.
- **An ID card or passport:** If you're wandering around on your own, you may need a form of identification in order to access certain buildings, such as the library. Keep this safe but handy in case it's required.

What to LEAVE at Home:

- **Clothing from another college:** It may seem obvious—but the odds are, your usual rotation includes a shirt or two bearing the name of a university. Similarly, it's likely you've combined college visits into one big trip and have picked up some gear from one place or another along the way. Before you head out the door for a tour, make sure that you aren't accidentally representing another college by mistake—you'll thank yourself later!
- **Headphones:** Once you arrive, put away the headphones and appreciate your surroundings—you came all the way to campus to get the full visitor experience, after all. You'll also come off as more approachable while you're exploring on your own.
- **A negative attitude:** Maybe a school just doesn't seem as great as you had anticipated or you don't find yourself relating to your tour guide. Just remember that this is one college visit and there are opportunities for many, many more. Even if you traveled a long distance to visit a college that turns out to be blah, don't feel bad—better to realize you aren't a fan of the place now than after you've sent in your tuition deposit!

WHAT TO BRING ON THE TRIP

TOILETRIES AND PERSONAL CARE

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Floss
- Deodorant
- Hair styling products
- Shaving kit
- Hand sanitizer or antibacterial wipes

LUGGAGE AND SECURITY

- Luggage
- Luggage name tags

GADGETS

- Cell phone
- Digital camera
- Headphones
- Battery and phone chargers

FOOD AND DRINK

- Snack
- Chewing gum or mints
- Bottled water

TO DO

- Charge all batteries
- Get cash from ATM
- Check weather at destination
- Prepare all clothes
- Upload music

PERSONAL ITEMS

- Sunglasses
- Watch
- Wallet

DOCUMENTS AND MONEY

- Photo ID
- Medical insurance card

CLOTHING

- Briefs or boxer shorts
- Undershirts
- Socks
- Loungewear
- Activewear
- Outerwear
- Belt
- Shoes
- Shirt

EXTRAS

- Garbage bags for dirty clothes
- Lint roller
- Sturdy notebook and pen