

How to get the most out of a college fair: Tips for students

Reasons to attend

- Gain exposure to a variety of postsecondary institutions throughout the country.
- Ask questions about current admissions and financial aid information.
- Pick up free brochures on colleges that you might want to consider.
- Receive answers to specific questions.
- Learn from experts in special-interest sessions.

Bring with you

- A large plastic bag for college brochures.
- A pen and notepad.

Questions to ask the college representatives

- Do my GPA and test scores make me eligible for admission to your college? Would I get into the major I want?
- How could I explore my interests (academic, major, extracurricular)?
- What percentage of students receive financial aid? What is the average aid package?
- Is your college “need blind” in the admissions process—do you determine admission without regard to a student’s financial situation?
- Where do most students live? What is the focus of social life?
- What is unique about your campus?

After the fair

- Don’t put the college materials in the back of your closet. Keep them nearby for when you’re ready to review them.
- Look through the materials, and your notes, within the week.
- Keep everything. Weed out colleges that aren’t a good fit.
- Research colleges that interest you. Explore Web sites, request more information from admissions offices, and plan to visit.

Source: Adapted from material prepared by the National Association for College Admission Counseling

Handout 3F