



College Fair Checklist

As you start to get more serious about your college search, you will more than likely attend a college fair. Whether at your high school or another location in your community, this will be an event where college representatives set up booths and share information to spread the word about their college and find students that may be a good fit for them.

The college representatives usually hand out brochures and cards, and they may ask you to sign up to receive more information about their school. They can tell you about everything from academics to campus life at their college, and they can also answer questions about college in general. Ask your school counselor or a teacher about college fairs that may be taking place in your area. It's good to go to more than one, if you get the chance, to get exposed to as many different colleges as possible. The checklist below will help you get the most out of each fair.

Before You Go

- Find out which colleges will be at the fair (your counselor may know or larger fairs may post a list on their website) and write down the names of the ones you want to learn about.
- Make a list of any questions you have. If you aren't sure what to ask, see the sample questions on the next page.
- Bring your list, a pen, paper and a bag to hold college brochures.
- Have a professional-sounding email address that is active and that you check regularly, as most colleges will ask for this if you decide to sign up to receive more information.

At the Fair

- Do a quick survey of the room to locate the colleges on your list. Larger fairs may have a map showing where each college is located in the room.
- Visit booths and ask college representatives the questions on your list.
- Introduce yourself and shake hands. The rep at the fair is often the same person who will assist you through the application process at that school.
- Keep your notepad handy, and take a minute to jot down any information you think is important before moving on to the next booth.
- Check out some of the other booths when you're done with the colleges on your list. You may stumble onto a great college you hadn't considered.
- Attend an information session, if any are offered. Typical topics include application tips and financial aid. These sessions are good opportunities to get expert advice.

When You Get Home

- Ask yourself which colleges stood out and why.
- Go over any notes you took during the fair, and organize the college material you collected while it's fresh in your mind.
- Throw out the pamphlets of colleges you've ruled out so you can focus on the colleges you're interested in.
- Do more research on the colleges you're still interested in. Explore websites, contact the admission office or plan a campus visit. If you liked what you saw at the fair, it may be time to see the college in person.

What to Ask at the Fair

If you aren't sure what you should ask an admission representative during a college fair, the list below can help you get started. Remember to tailor questions to your specific situation, and feel free to come up with other questions of your own.

- What is your school best known for?
- My GPA and ACT/SAT scores are (xxx) and (xxx). How does this profile compare with students admitted to your school?
- When do I have to declare a major?
- I am planning to major in (xxx) or (xxx). Are there specific admissions requirements for these majors? How competitive are these majors?
- What makes your programs related to these majors unique?
- What internship opportunities are available that are related to these majors? What support is available in finding internships?
- What institutional or department scholarships are available to students? What are the eligibility requirements? How are these scholarships awarded?
- How do first-year students choose their classes?
- Will professors or graduate students be teaching most of my classes my first year?
- How many students will be in the classes I'm likely to take my first year?
- What percentage of last year's freshman class returned for sophomore year?
- How are academic advisors / faculty advisors assigned?
- Do you offer any study-abroad opportunities?
- Do first-year students have to live on campus? Can I bring my car?
- How are roommates and residence halls assigned?
- What activities are available on campus? I play (xxx), do you offer a club or intramural version of this sport/activity?
- What is campus like on the weekends?
- What support do you offer first-year students to adjust to campus life?
- How safe is your campus? Is there a night-time shuttle or security?
- When is your application deadline?
- Will I have to interview or provide recommendation letters when I apply?
- How long after you receive my application before I know if I am admitted?