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How to Prepare for a College Fair:

- Review the list of participating colleges.
- Ask yourself the following questions: Do I want to attend a two or four year university? How much money is available for me to attend college? What size school do I want to attend? What programs am I considering? How far from home do I want to travel? What types of extra-curricular activities or athletics am I interested in? What type of environment do I prefer: urban, suburban, rural? Do I require any special services: tutoring, note takers, readers, interpreters etc?
- Start researching colleges online. It is important to select a major first before selecting school. If the college you are interested in attending does not offer your major, it is not the school for you!
- Locate the schools you want to interview.
- Spend some time meeting with the college recruiters you have not considered. (Remember, you may not attend another college fair. This is a one time opportunity to speak to college representatives. Do not rule out any colleges! You never know what will be the right fit for you!)

College Fair Checklist

Distinguish Yourself: Bring resumes and portfolios to submit to college recruiters. You are competing among thousands of students. You want to stand out!

Show recruiters that you are a prepared college bound student: bring printouts of labels made with your contact information (i.e. name, address, email, and phone number). This will prevent you from spending time at the recruiter's table filling out inquiry cards.

Questions to ask College Recruiters:

Admissions:

- What are the admission requirements?
- What qualities are they looking for in a prospective student?
- What are the test score requirements?
- What majors do they offer? Which degrees are featured as the most popular?
- When is the application deadline?
- Are admission interviews conducted? Are interviews required?

NACAC (September 2, 2011). College Answer: The Planning for College Destination. Retrieved from www.nacacnet.org on September 2, 2011.

NACAC (September 2, 2011). Tips for Attending a National College Fair. Retrieved from www.nacac.org on September 2, 2011.

- How can you arrange a campus visit? When will they hold an Open House?
- How long should you expect to wait for an answer once you have submitted an application for admission?

Financial Aid:

- How much is tuition?
- When is the financial aid deadline?
- What work study and scholarship opportunities do they offer?
- What is the average cost that students pay per year for room, board, and textbooks?

Classroom:

- What is the average class size?
- How accessible are professors outside the classroom?
- Will a professor or graduate student most likely teach the courses?
- When must you decide on a major?
- Do you need a computer?
- What student services are offered (tutoring, career counseling, study workshops)?

Housing:

- What type of housing is available?
- Are freshmen required to live on campus their first year?
- Will you have a roommate or live alone?
- How are roommates selected?

Student Life:

- What kind of groups, organizations, and/or Greek life does their campus offer?
- What types of activities are available to students who remain on campus during the weekend?
- Are any programs offered to help students adjust to the college life?
- Are intramurals, clubs, and/or varsity sports offered?
- How are the sports facilities?
- Do students get free admission to athletic events?
- What types of meal plans are available?
- Are freshmen allowed to have cars on campus?
- How much are parking decals?
- Is public transportation provided if students do not have a car?

Just the facts:

- What is the school known for?
- How many freshmen return for their sophomore year?

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- How safe is the campus and its surrounding neighborhoods?

After speaking with the college recruiters, list the schools that you are interested in:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

I have narrowed down the schools I wish to apply to, now what?

- Submit the online application and pay the application fee. If you are on free or reduced lunch, you can obtain a fee waiver, SAT or ACT waiver from your guidance counselor. *If you attend an Open House, ask if your application fee will be waived.*
- Submit official high school transcripts to the colleges you are interested in. You will need to request this through your high school guidance department.
- Submit official test scores. You can do this through the College Board or ACT website. You can also check to see if your high school guidance department has your test scores recorded on your official transcript.
- Schedule a campus visit!