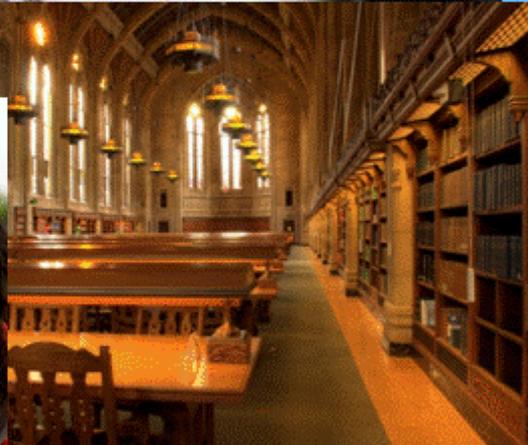


Getting Ready for Campus Visits



A GEAR UP Handbook for Providing Campus Visits for Middle and High School Students.

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INTRODUCTION

Campus visits can help students and families realize the possibilities that exist beyond high school and their community. These visits have the added benefit of easing the concerns and anxieties of both students and families, especially for first generation students and their parents.

Students have multiple opportunities to visit postsecondary campuses, beginning with a broad look at options in the middle school years and then targeted visits aligned with students' specific college and career interests in high school.

These meaningful experiences provide students and their families with opportunities to visit classrooms, meet instructors, and talk to current college students, including alumni from their own schools and communities.

This guidebook is intended for GEAR UP coordinator use. It includes best practices and resources from a variety of sources, which includes but is not limited to, GEAR UP programs from across the nation, the College Board, and the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is meant to be a working copy with replicable, customizable tools. It will be updated with resources and lessons learned from our own GEAR UP schools.



Get Ready.

DECIDE ON A PURPOSE.

GEAR UP students who are exposed to college campuses can begin to see themselves there. However, many families lack the resources to make these visits on their own. Most first generation families do not know how to plan for a meaningful campus experience. Some students that go on to postsecondary school will limit their options to those closest to home rather than the one best aligned with their goals and aspirations. Campus visits provide meaningful opportunities for students and families to increase motivation, explore options, and familiarize themselves with postsecondary options. Deciding on the purpose of the visit before planning will help clarify your next steps.

Before you begin planning the logistics, consider what you hope students will achieve with their visit. A visit that is geared for middle school students will have different needs than one intended for high school juniors and seniors. Some options that go beyond the standard walking tour include:

- Relating class curriculum to current research or college courses.
- Exploring the history of the university.
- Discovering support services available to students.
- Understanding financial aid and admissions.
- Connecting with college student mentors.
- Recognizing career options and majors.

DETERMINE COST AND FUNDING.

Since programming is generally offered free of charge, campus visits can be a very affordable field trip. Costs may include transportation, substitute teachers, food and possibly lodging. Some colleges may have funds for special groups or events to help with transportation or meal costs. ¹

DETERMINE WHEN TO VISIT.

Visiting a campus helps create a college going culture in schools. It assists students in choosing a college or university. These visits are not just for juniors and seniors. Even middle school students can benefit from an on-campus experience.

Type of tours and activities will vary depending on the age and grade level of the students. If the tour is targeting high school upperclassmen, then it is preferable to visit prior to application deadlines. Plan your visit in advance in order to ensure that classes will be in session so students have the opportunity to see and experience typical campus life.

How to Pick a Date:

If you plan your visit in advance, students and families are more likely to have an opportunity to see the essentials and meet with the appropriate people. Many institutions have academic calendars posted online. Below are some guidelines on when to visit.

Best Seasons

- *For middle school or younger high school students:* Timing is flexible since visits are usually more focused as on-campus experiences. Young students do not necessarily need to see the same things as upperclassmen.
- *For juniors:* If students have already researched colleges, the spring is a good time.
- *For seniors:* The late summer and early September are convenient times to visit, since some colleges begin their fall quarter/semester as early as mid-August.
- *Some seniors* may wish to visit campuses after they have been accepted. Visits can help them make in-depth comparisons between the colleges that have accepted them.

When Not to Go

- Check specific dates with each institution so you don't arrive when the campus is deserted.
- Call or look on the website for the academic calendar to find out when breaks, reading periods and exam periods are scheduled.

Typically colleges/universities are not in session during:

- Thanksgiving weekend
- Certain holidays like Christmas
- Winter and spring breaks
- Summer session may vary

Classes don't meet during:

- Reading periods (between the end of classes and before the final examination period)
- Exam weeks
- Saturdays and Sundays

The admission office may be closed to visitors at certain times. For example, admission officers may be too busy to meet with you in April and May – that's when they're reviewing applications.²

To find out dates and time preferences for each institution, refer to the **Washington Campus Visit Information for GEAR UP Groups Matrix**.

CONTACT THE COLLEGE.

Contact the college or university of your choice at least 2 weeks ahead of your preferred visit (and preferably longer).

- The college you choose to visit may be based on your goals for the visit, geographic proximity, or date of availability.

- See the **Washington Campus Visit Information for GEAR UP Groups Matrix** for initial contact information.
- It may take several calls or emails to reach the right contact people that can organize the specific kind of trip that you want.
- You may wish to use the **Campus Logistic Visit Form** to clarify your preferences with the college. However, many schools now have their own online form. See matrix for details.
- In general, admissions offices will lead high school student groups on walking tours and offer presentations on financial aid and requirements to get into college.
- If you are taking middle school students, be specific with the admission office about the goals of the visit and what activities you'd like their assistance in coordinating.
- If you want to do special or custom activities, allow extra planning time to coordinate with campus staff.
- Consider offering **Campus Tour Tips for 7th-12th Graders** handout to postsecondary staff that may be less familiar with working with middle or high school students.
- Be specific about any special arrangements you may want or need.

Be clear on what you'd like the students to see and do. Activities might include:

- Campus tours led by students.
- Student panels.
- Hands-on activities related to class curriculum.
- Admissions/financial aid presentation.
- Visiting dorms or athletic facilities.
- Sitting in on a class.
- Time to talk to an instructor.
- Consider contacting alumni from your town's high school who attend the university to serve as tour guides, mentors, and/or part of a student panel.

Be flexible!

- Have a range of dates that you will be available to visit.
- Consider bringing smaller groups on multiple days.
- Understand that all of your requests might not be met due to staffing or time limitations.

Open House/Special Events versus Traditional Campus Tours

One option is to visit a university or college during their special events days that are geared towards a particular groups such as [University of Washington's Engineering Discovery Days](#), or [Washington State University Future Cougar Day](#).

Pros:

- More programming and special presentations or tours are available.
- Information for specific target groups.
- May include lunch or transportation funding.

Cons:

- Less opportunity for custom programs.
- Often takes place during breaks when college students aren't in class or on campus.
- Lumped in with other schools into larger groups.³

PREPARE STUDENTS.

Once you have identified the goals of the visit and set up the logistics, you can create and implement pre-visit activities. The activities should encourage students to think about and question the different aspects of what makes a college good fit. Students will learn about options, identify preferences, and get engaged. Sample activities in the appendix get students to consider the following aspects and their preferences:

- Type (liberal arts, technical, professional).
- Academics (types of degrees and majors offered).
- Location (distance from home, online, rural, urban, etc.).
- Number of students (small, medium, or large).
- Student life (on-campus housing, extracurricular activities, sports teams, academic support).
- Student body diversity.
- Independent or religiously-affiliated.
- Cost and financial aid availability.

Use the College Board's [Big Future College Search](#) tool, the College Board [Score Card](#) or the other college comparison tools in the appendix.

These pre-activities can be done in school or at home alone or with family members prior to a campus visit. Ideas, many of which can be found in the appendix, include:

- Online Scavenger Hunt for interesting facts about the college.
- Virtual tour, see appendix, for a list of recommended websites.
- Budgeting/math activities on college tuition and fees.
- Language arts essay or history project about college or famous alumni.
- General college prep curriculum such as [NELA's "I'm Going to College"](#) , College Board's [CollegeEd](#) or NACAC's [Guiding the Way to Higher Education](#) (available in English and Spanish).
- Administer a **Pre-Visit Survey** to assess student knowledge and aspirations about college.

PREPARE PARENTS/FAMILY MEMBERS.

Parents/adult family members can also benefit from a visit to a campus. Engage families in pre-visit activities. Consider holding a Family/Parent Night prior to the visit to provide an overview of the importance of college, financial aid, and how they can help their student. Invite them to attend as chaperones. If any intend on serving as a chaperone, you may wish to review expectations at that time.

LOGISTICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS.

As the coordinator, you will need to plan ahead and manage all the necessary details required at your school in order to take a field trip, which may include:

- Getting approval from school board and/or administration.
- Completing a Campus Visit Logistics form.
- Submitting a Field Trip form to the GEAR UP office for pre-approval.
- Requesting substitute teachers.
- Organizing bus transportation.
- Arranging for meals and snacks.
- Recruiting chaperones.
- Collecting permission slips.
- Creating nametags.
- Ensuring that GEAR UP Student Event and Family Event Participation Logs are accurately completed.
- Entering participant/event information in the GEAR UP Portal Database.

Chaperones are responsible for student behavior. Institutions are adamant that schools provide an adequate number of chaperones. Prepare chaperones prior to the visit. In addition to the **GEAR UP Chaperone Expectations Handout**, it is recommended that you clarify planned activities and roles/responsibilities. Provide them with the following:

- A list of the students for whom they will be responsible and any special needs they may have.
- Suggestions and procedures for managing student behavior.
- A schedule.
- A map.
- Contact numbers for the GEAR UP Coordinator and any other important contacts.
- An overview of emergency procedures.

Remember to check in periodically with your college campus contact. Logistical items to discuss with your contact may include:

- Assigning groups (consider small groups chaperoned by one adult to minimize behavior problems).
- Directions, maps, and parking information.
- Cell phones numbers for chaperones, staff, and bus drivers.
- Items students should bring (or leave home).
- Expectations or code of conduct for students and chaperones.
- Match paperwork.

Go for It.

DURING THE VISIT.

On the day of the campus visit, the best advice is to be flexible since unexpected events almost always occur. Pre-visit preparation should minimize these issues, but keep these considerations in mind:

- Review expectations for students and chaperones while on the bus.
- Play **On the Bus Games** to reinforce pre-visit activities.
- Notify the campus contact if you will be early or late.
- Supervise students and monitor behavior.
- Wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather (warn students to do the same, as most college visits require a lot of outdoor travel).
- Take photos and make it an exciting event for everyone involved.

Follow up.

AFTER THE VISIT.

A great post-visit follow up activity is to assess the impact that the college visit had on your students' interest in attending college. This step allows you to adjust and improve the experience for future years. Use a **Post-Visit Survey** like one of the samples in the appendix or make your own.

It is also a great time to send thank you notes written by you or the students to the college's staff or students that made the campus experience memorable. Maintain the enthusiasm of your students and parents after a college visit by trying the following activities:

- Administer a **Post-Visit Survey**.
- Have students complete reflection activities such as journaling or completing the **Campus Scorecard**.
- Post photos from the visit on the school website or on a classroom bulletin board.
- Host additional Parent/Family Information Nights.
- Have a college t-shirt day or other traditions that reinforce the college-going culture of your school or class.
- Refer back to information learned during college visit.
- Start planning the next visit.⁴

PLANNING CHECKLISTS

BEFORE

3-6 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Determine purpose of the college visit.
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure funding and administrative support.
<input type="checkbox"/> If necessary, apply for grants or programs.
1-3 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Contact university or college.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have several dates available.
<input type="checkbox"/> Be clear on purpose of visit
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare students and parents/family members.
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/family college night (optional).
<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare college or subject curriculum.
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative tasks for school.
<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute requests.
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus transportation.
<input type="checkbox"/> Bagged lunches (if applicable).
2 weeks-1 month
<input type="checkbox"/> Handle permission slips.
<input type="checkbox"/> Recruit chaperones.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check in with university or college contact.
<input type="checkbox"/> Connect with graduates of your school that are studying at the college.
<input type="checkbox"/> Present related curriculum to students.
1 week
<input type="checkbox"/> Check in with university contact.
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm and orient chaperones.
<input type="checkbox"/> Assign groups of students to chaperones.
<input type="checkbox"/> Create nametags (optional).
<input type="checkbox"/> Present related curriculum to students.
<input type="checkbox"/> Give a Pre-Visit Survey to students.
<input type="checkbox"/> Host a family/parent night (optional).
1 day
<input type="checkbox"/> Remind students and chaperones. Go over expectations.
<input type="checkbox"/> Be sure you have maps, directions, parking information, phone numbers.

DURING

While on Campus
<input type="checkbox"/> Stay in touch with the college contact if you are going to be early or late.
<input type="checkbox"/> Go over expectations for students and chaperones.
<input type="checkbox"/> Take photos.
<input type="checkbox"/> Be flexible.
<input type="checkbox"/> Wear comfortable shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather.
<input type="checkbox"/> Supervise students.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have students complete a College Scorecard or a reflection-type activity.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have fun.

AFTER

BACK AT SCHOOL
<input type="checkbox"/> Administer a Post-Visit Survey.
<input type="checkbox"/> Complete College Comparison Scorecards.
<input type="checkbox"/> Send thank you notes or emails to students or staff that helped with your college visit.
<input type="checkbox"/> Post photos to class website (photo release needed) or on a classroom bulletin board.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reinforce learning outcomes from campus visits during classes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain momentum of college visits with "College T-Shirt Fridays" or other traditions.
<input type="checkbox"/> Host an additional parent/family information night.
<input type="checkbox"/> Start planning the next campus visit.

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CAMPUS VISIT LOGISTICS

Date pre-planning began: _____ (please allow at least 4 weeks for group tours)

Information about the Group:

GEAR UP School: _____ GU Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____
Address City State Zip

Phone Number _____ Alternate Phone Number _____

Email Address: _____

Number of students in each grade planning to attend the college visit***:

7th grade = _____; 8th grade = _____; 9th = _____; 10th = _____; 11th = _____; 12th = _____

Total number of students: _____ ***If possible, bring groups of similar grades.

of Adult Chaperones _____ Chaperones will be with the group at all times: Yes No

Is this an overnight trip? Yes No If yes, where will you be staying? _____

Pre-Visit Preparation: _____

Has this group visited this campus before? Yes No If yes, date of visit: _____

Other colleges has this group visited: _____

Describe any accommodations needed for this group: _____

Expectations of the visit (what do you hope your students will learn/experience by visiting this campus?) _____

Requests for the Campus:

College Name: _____ Location: _____

College Contact: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Proposed date of visit: _____ Alternative date: _____

College Visit Components:

Check all that apply keeping in mind the time requirements for each activity. Times are approximate and will vary between campuses. Indicate special requests on the line below the activity.

Tour of campus (1-2 hours) Visit with Admission (30 minutes) Financial Aid/Scholarships (30 min)

Meet with a Professor (30 min) Attend a class* (1-1 ½ hours) Career presentation* (30-60 min.)

Scavenger Hunt* (30 min) Student Panel* (45 min.-1.5 hours) Bookstore Tour (20 minutes)

Residence Hall Tour* (30 min) Meals on Campus** (1 hour) other

*Activities may not be available ** Check with the college for meal prices.

Coordinators:

Once you have completed the first page of the College Visit Logistics form, contact the college visit coordinator at the college you wish to visit. Discuss the information on the sheet. The campus contact may want you to fax a copy of the completed form to them. Once the details of the visit have been determined by the college, the following information will be confirmed with you.

Confirmation:

Date of Visit: _____ Time of Arrival: _____ Departure Time: _____

Meeting place: _____ Name of Greeter: _____

Person/Phone number to call if the group will be delayed: _____

Visit details confirmed: (date) _____ (to) _____ (by) _____

APPENDIX

The appendix contains sample handouts, pre-visit activities, games, pre- and post-surveys, and additional resources. Customize these documents to fit your needs. Please share your own resources/best practices by sending them to the GEAR UP office at the Washington Student Achievement Council.

Sample Campus Tour Tips for GEAR UP 7th-12th Graders

1. GET READY

- Work with the GEAR UP Coordinators to identify the needs/wants of the group.
- A minimum college visit for a GEAR UP group should include: a campus tour, a meeting with admissions representative and a presentation on financial aid.
- A preferable campus visit includes hands-on components that allow students to engage directly with some aspect of the college experience (such as an experiment or small project).
- Set up the actual visit and communicate with all involved parties.
- Know your audience. Make sure you know how many students to expect, ages/grades, type of school, etc.
- Handouts or publications should be selected with the grade level in mind.

2. MEET AND GREET

- Welcome the group.
 - Show that you are genuinely happy that the group is visiting your campus
 - Be confident and take charge of the group.
 - Tell the students, "Today you are college students, so please be respectful as we go through campus and classrooms." This statement reinforces what teachers and chaperones have already discussed. It reminds them that they are potential college students and therefore must be aware of how their actions will affect those around them.
- Identify the Chaperones.
 - Have them introduce themselves.
 - Let them know what you expect (i.e., "when we start the tour, at least 2 chaperones must be in each group").
 - Have a chaperone collect anything you think will become a problem (i.e., cell phones, iPods, etc.).
- Review the schedule and process.
 - Share information on what they will see and do while on campus.
 - Split into groups if necessary (due to size or perhaps interests).
 - Remind them of how happy you are that they are visiting your campus. Remind them that as guests they must be respectful and well-behaved.

3. PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE

- Keep the students engaged.
- Provide opportunities for students to ask and answer questions; engage in interactive activities, etc.

- Students are more likely to pay attention, ask questions, etc. if they connect with you. Ask each student to quickly state their name, grade and one other thing (favorite color, sport, subject, etc.).
- Reward with praise or incentives. If you have cheap freebies (pens, pencils, candy, stickers, etc.) give them to students that participate.
- Many colleges come up with a 'signature' piece that is fun, interactive, and memorable for the students.
- Allow students to tour inside of some buildings so they get a sense of college life. A tour consisting of pointing out buildings from the sidewalk does not capture students' attention or really give them a good picture of campus life.
- If possible, use tour guides that are graduates from the touring school. This option will require additional coordination between campus staff and GEAR UP staff.
- Student panels are always a big hit.
- If possible, make arrangements for students to eat on campus.

4. COMPLETE "MATCH" FORMS

- Washington State GEAR UP requires 100% match for all federal funds used. What this means is that when you give a tour, you are providing 'in-kind' match to the GEAR UP program.
- GEAR UP Coordinators should request that you complete a match form to document your time, effort, materials used, etc.
- If you do not wish to provide your salary information, have the GEAR UP Coordinator use the federally approved match rate for a volunteer.

5. SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY

- Depending on your college's mailing list policy, invite to complete an interest card. They love to receive mail.
- Have them complete a post-visit survey and/or scorecard.
- Follow up by phone or email with the GEAR UP Coordinator.

On behalf of the entire GEAR UP program, thank you for your time and for your commitment to student success!⁷

Sample GEAR UP Chaperone Expectations

The Washington State GEAR UP program provides students with many opportunities to start seeing colleges in their futures.

One important way we do this is by taking students to college campuses for visits. The colleges and GEAR UP require that groups are well supervised at all times. We appreciate your willingness to serve as GEAR UP chaperone. **Here is some information to help you understand your role as a chaperone:**

GEAR UP CHAPERONES WILL:

- Act as positive role models for the students (stay with the group, leave personal items on the bus, don't talk on cell phone, etc.).
- Be attentive and respectful to all speakers. Model the behavior that you expect from your students.
- Monitor behavior of the students. If there is a problem, talk to the school staff to determine the appropriate level of corrective action needed.
- Take responsibility for enforcing campus rules. Remember campus officials are used to working with older students. They may not be as prepared as you are to engage younger students.
- If students are split into smaller groups, make sure that at least one chaperone goes with each group.
- Ask appropriate questions from the tour guide/speakers if you don't think your students understand the information.
- Collect anything from a student that is distracting (i.e. cell phone, iPod, etc).
- Feel appreciated for helping to make this college visit a success.
- Have a great time.

GEAR UP CHAPERONES WILL NOT:

- Rely on campus officials to enforce rules.
- Engage in conversations that will distract from the tour and campus visit.
- Complete a match form.

On behalf of the entire GEAR UP program, thank you for your time and for your commitment to student success!⁸

Sample Things to Think About Before Visiting Campus

College visits are a great way to learn about campus life, get your questions answered, and to get excited about attending college someday.

To get the most out of this trip, we ask that you please observe the following guidelines:

1. Be on time for all sessions.
2. Remain on campus during the entire program and attend all sessions unless otherwise pre-approved.
3. Ask questions so you can learn as much as possible.
4. Please wear nametags while visiting campus if they are provided.
5. Be respectful to workshop presenters, tour guides, and other campus members.
6. Keep all personal items (headphones, basketballs, backpacks, phones, electronic devices, etc.) on the bus.
7. Do not bring food or beverages to workshops, classrooms, or activities.
8. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings and what the campus has to offer you!
9. Remember that you are a guest while on campus. Please set a good example as your behavior will determine if your school and/or other schools will be able to go on campus visits in the future.

Sample Online Scavenger Hunt

Before our visit to: _____, you'll need to do some detective work. Start out by going to the college's website and answering the questions below.

1. In what town is the main campus located? _____
2. How many students attend? _____
3. How much are tuition and fees for one year? _____
4. Do they have on-campus housing (dorms)? Yes No
5. If so, how much does it cost for the year? _____
6. What are the school colors? _____
7. What is the school mascot? _____
8. Names of two student clubs that I might be interested in joining:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
9. Do they have fraternities and sororities? Yes No
10. What does it take to be admitted into this college?
 - What kinds of grades or GPA do I need to be admitted? _____
 - What classes do I need to take? _____
 - Do I need a standardized test like SAT or ACT? Yes No
 - If yes, which one(s) will the school accept? _____
11. Name three different majors offered at this college that are interesting:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

c. _____

12. What types of support services are offered? _____

13. What kinds of degrees can you earn at this college? Check all that apply:

Associate's Bachelor's Master's Doctorate

14. Is there a career center at this college? Yes No

15. If so, what kinds of services do they offer to students? _____

Now that you've done your research, think about what you would like to gain from visit to the college. Give three answers for each question below.

What are some questions you'd like to ask students on campus?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are some questions you'd like to ask someone that works there?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What parts of the campus would you most like to see and why?

1. _____
2. _____

Sample **Why Go to College?**

Use your school guidance center or the [College Board's Explore Careers](#) feature to complete this page.

A career that interests me is (career name and reason):
To prepare for this career my college major (or program) could be:
I would need the following degree:
One college I could attend for this major is (college name, location, reason):
High school courses I should take to prepare include:

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Sample **Take a Closer Look:**

At Community & Technical Colleges
An Affordable College Option

Go to [Check out a College](#) then click on "Find a College & Program" and then "Search by College and Program." Then complete this page.

A community or technical college near my home (list at least one)
Programs offered by this college (list at least three programs, then circle the one you will research)
Classes included as part of this program (list at least three classes required by the program)
Type of degree or certificate offered by this program
Cost of this program (list dollar amount and unit of measurement – for example, \$92/credit)
Length of this program (for example, 4 quarters)

Sample College Research

Go to the [College Board](https://collegeboard.org) website. Click on "Students." Then click on "Find Colleges" and locate a college either by typing in its name or by completing the search process. Then complete this page.

Information to Research	Findings
A college I might like to attend	
Location	
Type of school (private/public)	
Degrees offered	
Application deadline	
Financial aid deadline	
Percent of applicants admitted	
Middle 50% SAT Critical Reading scores	
Middle 50% SAT Math scores	
Middle 50% SAT Writing scores	
Middle 50% ACT Composite score	
In-state tuition and fees	
Out-of-state tuition and fees	
Most popular majors	
What interests me about this college	

Sample Graduation Requirements

What is required to graduate from high school?

How is that different from what is required to be admitted to college?

Subject Area	WA High School Graduation Requirements (2017)	Minimum WA College Admission Requirements	My College Choice: _____
Language Arts	4 credits	4 credits	
Mathematics	3 credits	3 credits (incl math senior yr)	
Science	2 credits (1 lab)	2 credits (2 labs)	
Social Studies	3 credits	3 credits	
Visual & Performing Arts	1 credit	1 credit	
Health & Fitness	2 credits	-	
World Language	0 credits	2 credits	
Occupational Education	1 credit	-	
Electives	4 credits	-	

*Note: For more information, please visit the State Board of Education at:
www.sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php

Sample Campus Visit Checklist

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TRIP

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible like college admission's staff, professors and students. Below are some other things you can do while visiting.

(Note: Some activities will need to be set up in advance.)

<p>Gather Information Find out what you need to do to apply and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take part in a group information session at the admission office. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview with an admission officer. <input type="checkbox"/> Pick up financial aid forms. <input type="checkbox"/> Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms settings are like. <input type="checkbox"/> Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you. <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors. <input type="checkbox"/> Get the names of the people you meet and their business cards so you can contact them later if you have questions or concerns.
<p>Explore the Campus Get a feel for student life and see if this college is a place where you will do well:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take a campus tour. <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to current students about life on campus and the college. <input type="checkbox"/> If possible, check out the freshmen dorms and stay overnight with a student. <input type="checkbox"/> Visit main student buildings such as the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore & other campus facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play. <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the community surrounding the campus.
<p>Check Out Campus Media Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to the college radio station. <input type="checkbox"/> Read the student newspaper. <input type="checkbox"/> Read other student publications, such as department newsletters,

	<p>alternative newspapers and literary reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like. <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the career center and learn what services they offer. <input type="checkbox"/> Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
<p>Questions to Ask During Your Visit Here are some questions you may want to ask your tour guide or students you meet on campus:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What are the best reasons to go to this college? <input type="checkbox"/> What's it like to go from high school to college? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you do in your free time? On the weekends? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you love about this college? <input type="checkbox"/> What do you wish you could change about this college? <input type="checkbox"/> Why did you choose this college? <input type="checkbox"/> What is it like to live here?
<p>Get Ready Before your visit, you should get prepared: When you're ready to go, remember to do the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the college's official website and review any materials the college has sent you. This will help you come up with questions specific to that college. <input type="checkbox"/> Make a list of questions to ask both staff and students. You can use the Campus Visit Checklist as a starting point. <input type="checkbox"/> Get a map of the college campus and check where the admission office is. This will help ensure that you're on time for your visit.
<p>When you're ready to go, remember to do the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pack a notebook and a camera so you can record your impressions. You'd be surprised at how easy it is to forget details after you've seen a few colleges. <input type="checkbox"/> Make fair comparisons of the colleges you visit. Print out several copies of the Campus Visit Score Card. Requires Adobe Reader (latest version recommended).

Sample College Comparison Scorecard

Compare colleges based on the characteristics that are most important to you. This scorecard helps you evaluate colleges side-by-side.

Step1: Take the “What is my ideal college?” survey in the left column.

Step2: Rank the colleges that you visit in person or on a virtual tour on a scale of 1 to 3 (3 is best!) based on how well they fit your criteria.

Step 3: Total the scores up to see what college might be the best fir for you.

Ranking System (1-3):

3= It's a perfect match

2= It kind of meets this criteria

1=Nope, it doesn't have what I want.

What's my ideal college? <i>Circle the answer or answers that apply to you.</i>	College #1	College #2	College #3
I want a college that is located: a. Close to home b. As far away as possible c. Somewhere in between so I can back for weekends and holidays.			
I prefer a campus size that is: a. Small (under 5,000 students) b. Medium (5,000-15,000 students) c. Large (15,000+ students)			
I want my college to be in the: a. City b. Suburbs c. Country			
I want to be able to live: a. On campus, in a dorm or apartment b. Off campus in an apartment or house c. At home			
I prefer a college that is : a. Private (not a public or state school) b. Single-sex (only male or female) c. Religiously affiliated d. Known for serving ethnic minority populations (i.e., tribal colleges historically black colleges and universities, etc) e. None of these are important to me			

What's my ideal college? <i>Circle the answer or answers that apply to you.</i>	College #1	College #2	College #3
I want to complete my degree in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2 years or less (AA) b. 4 years (BA, BS) c. More than 4 years (Masters, Doctorate, and Professional) 			
My ideal college offers degrees in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Art and Design b. Sciences and Engineering c. Health fields d. Teaching and Counseling e. Business or Law f. Other: 			
I want to be able to participate in the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sports (either, Division I, Division II, Division III) b. Student government c. Community service d. Greek life e. Other clubs and/or activities: 			
I want to be able to take advantage of the following student services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tutoring/academic support b. Counseling and health services c. Study abroad d. Recreational sports and/or a gym e. Disability access f. Other: 			
I want a college that offers financial aid including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scholarships b. Grants c. Loans d. Work-study programs e. This is not important to me 			
I want a college where students receive an average of ____% of their financial need through financial aid. (Use the College Board search if you are unsure). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 75-100% b. 50-74% c. 25-49% d. Less than 25% 			
Total			

Sample College Comparison Worksheet

This pre-visit activity requires you to investigate various aspects of particular postsecondary institutions. Evaluate each school in the areas listed below and then compare your evaluations.

Campus Environment	College #1	College #2	College #3
Campus facilities, equipment and services			
Computers and internet access			
Food service (cafeterias)			
Health care			
Housing			
Library			
Recreational			
Transportation (parking, buses, etc.)			
Campus safety			
Campus setting (urban, suburban, small town, rural)			
Geographic location (distance from home)			
Religious affiliation			
Student Body	College #1	College #2	College #3
Number of undergraduates enrolled			
% of full-time students			
% of men and women			
% of students 25 or older			
% of minority students			
% of students from out-of-state			
% of international students			
% of student who live on campus			
% of students who return the following year			
% of students who graduate			
% of graduates employed within one year			
Cost	College #1	College #2	College #3
Application fee			
Fee waiver available?			
Amount of deposit (after acceptance)			
Total annual cost of attendance			
Tuition and fees			
Room and board			
Other required expenses (books, supplies)			

Financial Aid	College #1	College #2	College #3
Financial aid availability			
Grants (participates in federal and/or state grant program?)			
Scholarships			
Work study			
Loans			
Financial aid deadline			
Financial aid forms (FAFSA, PROFILE, school)			
% of undergraduates receiving financial aid			
Average amount awarded to undergraduates			
Student Activities/Enrichment	College #1	College #2	College #3
Athletic offerings (sports: collegiate and intramural)			
Fraternities, sororities, social and academic clubs			
Extracurricular organizations and events			
Music, fine arts, performing arts			
Internships, community service, study abroad			
Student Support Services	College #1	College #2	College #3
Counseling, mentoring, or tutoring services			
Support for physical challenges & learning disabilities			
Student groups for women, students of color, LGBTQ students,			
Career, internship, employment assistance, job placement			
Other Considerations	College #1	College #2	College #3
Financial condition			
School accreditation			

Sample Campus Visit Checklist

When you visit a campus, it is important that you ask the right types of questions:

Look at Equipment and School Facilities

- Are the facilities and equipment up-to-date and operating?
- Is the equipment similar to what you will be using on the job?
- Is the library good for studying and research?
- How large are the dorm rooms? What type of furniture is provided/allowed?
- Are the dorm rooms quiet enough for studying?
- What is the cafeteria like?
- Are there plenty of computer labs?
- Do students get free e-mail and Internet access?

Sit In on a Class or Two

- Do the instructors seem knowledgeable?
- Are the students participating in classroom activities?
- What kinds of work are the students doing?
- How large/small are the classes?

Talk with Current Students in the Program

- How long have they been in school?
- Are they learning what they need to know to get a job?
- What is their opinion of the instructors? Are instructors available outside of class?
- Do the instructors spend time with them to be sure they understand the material?
- How much time is needed for studying and other work outside class?
- Have they had any problems with the school, the instructors or the classes?
- What do they like most/least about the school/program?
- How do they spend their free time?
- What are the other students like?

Talk with Instructors in the Program

- What are the academic requirements in the program?
- What kinds of courses are offered? How often are they offered?
- How many students are in the program? How many are accepted into the program each year?
- How long does it take most students to complete the program?
- How long have they taught at the school? Do they teach full time or part time?
- What background do they have in the field? How does it relate to the courses they teach?
- What types of activities are they involved in that relate to the field of study?

Talk with an Admissions Counselor

- Has the institution and its programs been accredited by a recognized accrediting association?

- What are the admissions requirements for the college or for a specific program?
- How do you apply and which forms do you fill out?
- When are the important deadlines for admissions?
- Will your family's ability to pay for college be a factor in the admissions process?
- What are the housing requirements and parking rules?
- What types of extracurricular activities are available?
- Can credits be earned online or transferred from other colleges?
- What percentage of first-year students return the following year?
- What percentage of graduates is employed within one year?

Talk with a Financial Aid Counselor

- How much does it cost to attend the college (including tuition, room and board, fees, etc.)?
- What financial aid options are available?
- Does the school participate in federal and state aid programs? (Not all schools are eligible.)
- What percentage of undergraduates receives aid?
- How much do they receive on average?
- Which financial aid forms do you need to fill out and what are the deadlines?
- Does the college offer scholarships? Who is most likely to receive them? How do you apply?
- Will private/non-government scholarships reduce the amount of need-based aid you receive?
- How is financial aid paid out? When will you receive it?
- Where do most graduates find work?
- How much do graduates typically owe?

Sample College Tour Questions

Of course, the questions will be different depending on whatever college you are visiting.

At the Admissions Building

- If I were to enroll here, what exactly is included in the cost of tuition?
- Where is the Financial Aid Office?
- Where and how do I pay my tuition and fees?
- Who is a good contact person to help me answer these questions?
- Are meals included in the bill I receive for tuition?
- Is there an academic advisor assigned to new freshmen?
- What type of work study is available?
- How do students register for classes?
- What kind of tutoring and academic support is offered?
- Can you talk to the professors if you need help?
- How do I receive my grades?

At the University Bookstore:

- How much do books cost?
- What other services are available at the bookstore, other than books?
- Do they offer electronic books?

At the dorms:

- What happens if I don't get along with my roommate?
- Can freshmen live off campus?
- What exactly do the resident advisors do?
- Do a lot of students live on campus?
- Where do people hang out?
- Can I have a car on campus?
- Are there shuttles around campus or to off-campus locations? What's the cost?
- What do students usually do on the weekend?
- What do I need to bring along for my dorm room?

At the University Health Clinic:

- What happens if I get sick at school?
- Are there extra costs to visit the clinic?
- How can I get health insurance?

At the Library:

- What are the hours that the Library is open?
- Where are the study areas?
- Is there a Writing Center with tutors to help me refine my work?

At the Fitness Center/Student Athletic Center:

- Do students have to pay extra to use the Fitness Center?
- What are the hours?

- Are there intramural sports or other athletic clubs?
- What kind of different clubs and organizations are there on campus?
- Do students get football tickets? How?
- What are some major student events that happen on campus?

At the Food Court/Cafeteria:

- How do I pay for my meals?

Here are the questions I would add to this list.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Campus Visit Score Card

College Name: _____

Date of Visit: _____

Visit Checklist

Here are some ways to round out your visit. The main thing is to explore and get a sense of what it would be like to attend.

- Take a campus tour.
- Take pictures.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Pick up an application.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Look at bulletin boards for day-to-day life.
- Check out a real dorm room.
- Read student newspapers.
- Sit in on a class or two.
- Talk to a professor in a subject of interest.
- Talk to a coach in your sport.
- Walk around town.
- Go to a campus event—game, concert.
- Ask current students what they love/hate about the college.

Contacts

Write down the names of anyone you want to remember or contact later—admissions and financial aid staff, professors, coaches, or students.

name: _____

contact: _____



College Search Online

- Get maps and directions.
- Create a college list and save these campus notes online.
- Look up the latest college info.
- See if you're on track to get in.
- Compare colleges side by side.
- Get deadline reminders.
- Find more college matches.

**www.collegeboard.com/
collegesearch**

Campus Ratings

Rate these areas from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Jot down your impressions—things you like or don't like, things you want to remember.

Campus

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Dorms

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Classes/Academics

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Library

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Food

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Fitness Center

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Social Life

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Overall Feel

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Other Notes: Can you picture yourself here?

On the Bus Games for Campus Visits.

Use these games during the bus ride over or as a fun pre-visit activity.

FAMILY FEUD

In this game, the two sides of the bus would compete against each other as “families”. The coordinator or teacher would serve as the game host.

To start the game, one person from each team is paired against each other for a speed question. For example, the host could ask: Name one of the fastest growing occupations in the United States; “Name one university in Washington and its mascot” or “Name one of Washington’s private colleges.” Base your questions on whatever pre-visit materials you have covered with your students.

The first person to hit the buzzer (make a sound, clap, etc) answers the question. If he or she is correct, the question goes to his or her team. If he or she gets the answer wrong, the other team gets a shot. Then, each person on the team provides an answer for the question. As each answer is given, the host says “survey says...” If the answer is correct, the team is awarded points (10 point per answer) and play continues. If the answer is incorrect, the team gets a strike. After 3 strikes, play is passed to the other team.

The team continues play with this question until all answers are given or a certain time has elapsed. At that point, the host reveals all the answers and tallies the points for that question.

Play resumes with another speed question. Repeat steps.

WASHINGTON STATE COLLEGE TABOO

This game is modeled after the game “Taboo” and is also similar to the \$25,000 Pyramid TV game show.

The bus is split into two teams. The object of the game is to get through the most cards in one minute.

Each card has an answer at the top and 3-5 facts about the answer on the card.

One person from the team is required to give clues for the answer without saying any of the fact words on the bottom of the card. For example, a card might look like this:

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Huskies
Seattle
Purple and Gold

In this case, the answer is UW and the words that cannot be said are listed below it. The person giving clues must come up with other facts about UW that can be used to guess the answer.

Once the team correctly guesses the answer, the clue giver moves on to the next card. The object is to get through as many cards as possible.

Each correctly answered cards equals one point. Points can be awarded to the other team if one of the following occurs:

- The clue giver passes on the clue (either he or she can't think of anything or he or she has given all their clues and their team still hasn't guessed.)
- If clue giver slips and accidentally says one of the "taboo" words on the bottom of the card.

20 QUESTIONS

The coordinator picks a college or university in Washington.

The students take turns asking questions about the school. They have up to twenty questions. For example:

- Is it a 4-year college?
- Does it have housing?
- Is it located in Eastern Washington?

The coordinator can answer either only 'yes' or 'no' to each question.

When a student thinks he or she has the answer, he or she can write it on a piece of paper and show it to the coordinator.

If the student is correct, he or she becomes the leader and picks the next institution and the game restarts. If the answer is incorrect, play resumes.

WHERE AM I?

The coordinator picks a college and states 3 things about the school (i.e., I am living on campus, in Ellensburg, studying education).

Students write down their guesses.

Repeat 3-5 times using different colleges.

Determine the winner based on who had the most correct responses. Reward with a small prize. The winner picks the next college to use and asks the questions. Repeat.²⁰



On the Bus Games

KNOWHOW2GO Campus Scavenger Hunt

What

The KnowHow2GO Scavenger Hunt is a fun and interactive way to get students to tour a local university and become comfortable and familiar with a campus environment. The event requires students to form teams and find locations on a list provided to them within a set amount of time. The team that proves they've visited the most locations wins a prize.

Why

College campuses can be a daunting place for pre-college students, especially those who've never visited. The Scavenger Hunt is an entertaining way to introduce students to a college campus — and let them explore it on their own. Students can prepare for or re-create this experience at KnowHow2GO-U, an interactive virtual campus, at www.KnowHow2GO.org.

Who

The Scavenger Hunt is targeted at students in grades 8 – 10. However, the game is suitable for most middle and high school students, provided there is adult supervision.

Others Items Needed

- Campus maps for participants
- Copies of the scavenger hunt list
- Pens/pencils for each student/team
- Camera phone or camera phone for each team leader
- Prize(s)

Basic Instructions

1. Identify a campus that will allow you to host the event. Then, reach out to the schools' admissions director to ask permission.
2. Once you secure a campus and a date, ask for a guided tour and suggestions for locations to include on your Scavenger Hunt list.
3. Finalize the scavenger hunt list using the [Sample List of Campus Locations/Actions](#) provided. The list should include locations on the campus of choice that students can prove they've visited through photos or other tangible evidence.
4. Ask about any security access issues (if buildings cannot be entered without student ID cards, etc.)
5. Require student teams to sign up in advance of the event and set standards, such as: teams must have

four students in grades 8 – 10. Each team should elect a team leader and finish the Scavenger Hunt within an agreed-upon time.

6. At the end of the time period, compare finds and debrief activity with students.

Sample List of Campus Locations/Actions

The list you provide to students will depend on the campus. Remember to ask about your campus contact about any possible security issues, rules, or guidance. They may have their own prepared list. Use this list as a guide as you're planning your event:

Earn one point per item, unless otherwise noted.

- Find out how many foreign language courses are offered.
- Find out the name of the university's mascot.
- Find out where first-year students live.
- Find the gymnasium and write down their hours of operation for the day.
- Find the name of the campus radio or TV station. Earn a bonus point for taking a picture at either location.
- Find three faculty offices. Write down the professors' names and office hours. Earn a point for each pair.
- Go to a fraternity or sorority house, and ask for the name of its president. Earn an extra point for taking a picture with him or her.
- Go to an arts building and take a picture in front of a student display.
- Go to the English department and find the name of the chair.
- Grab a pamphlet about a student organization.
- Jot down the names of two campus cafeterias or food stands.
- Learn the name of a cultural organization or association on campus.
- Locate the public bus stop nearest to campus. Write down the cross streets.
- Pick up a copy of a free campus newspaper.
- Pick up a pamphlet from the health center.
- Pick up an informational brochure from a career center.
- Sketch a picture of a statue on campus.
- Take a picture in a computer lab.
- Take a picture in a science lab.
- Take a picture in or around the football stadium. Earn an extra point for a picture taken on the football field.

- Take a picture in the university bookstore. Earn an extra point if everyone in your group is wearing something with university colors.
- Take a picture of college students studying.
- Take a picture with a student wearing a university sweatshirt or t-shirt.
- Take pictures on a bench that's been dedicated to an alumnus.
- Talk to five students—write down their names, majors and hometowns. Each conversation is worth one point.
- Visit a campus library and ask the librarian how many volumes they have.
- Visit the admission office and pick up an application. Earn an extra point for finding out the school's minimum ACT score.
- Visit the financial aid office and collect a FAFSA form. Earn an extra point if you find information about a scholarship.²¹

Sample College Pre-Visit Survey

Have you been on a college campus before? Yes No

Select the answer that best applies.	Yes	No	Maybe
I think I will go to college.			
I can picture myself as a college student.			
I believe I can afford to go to college.			
I can name at least one college major that interest me and is applicable to my future career.			
I know about student support services like tutoring and counseling that colleges offer.			
I know about clubs, activities, sports, and other social groups on college campus.			
I have talked to a current college student and asked him/her questions I have about college.			
I have talked to someone who works at a college and asked him/her questions I have about college.			

When I think of going to college, I think of:

Three questions I have for college students or staff while on a campus visit:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Three things that I would like to learn while on the college visit:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Sample College Pre/Post-Visit Survey

What school do you attend?

What college campus did you visit? _____

What is the date of your college visit? _____

How helpful was each of the following activities for your college preparation? Please choose only one response to each activity.

Select the answer that best applies.	Very Helpful	Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not Helpful	Didn't Do It
Touring the campus					
Eating at the food services					
Attending a class					
Meeting with a professor					
Visiting a classroom or lab					
Visiting a dorm					
Talking to an admission counselor					
Learning the cost of attending					
Learning how to apply for admissions					
Learning about clubs, activities and sports					
Other					

Approximately how long was your campus visit (hours spent on campus)? _____

How did you prepare for this college visit before coming to campus? Check all that apply.

- Preparing questions for the college visit
- Visiting the college website
- Playing "on-the-bus" or classroom games
- Group discussions about colleges and careers
- Information from GEAR UP coordinator
- Other (specify):

Before this college visit, did you think that you would go to college?

Yes No Maybe

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding our college visit? Please choose only one response to each activity.

This college visit...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure/Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Has helped me make up my mind to go to college.					
Has helped me understand what college life looks like.					
Has helped me understand what I need to do academically for college.					
Has increased my confidence in going to college.					

Have you been on a college campus before? Yes No

If YES, did you go there individually? with a group?

What grade are you in: 7 8 9 10 11 12

Please list three major things about this college that you have learned from this college visit:

1.

2.

3.

Sample Pre/Post Campus Visit Survey

Please complete the Pre-Survey before you tour the campus.

Date: _____ Student Name: _____ School: _____

Pre-Survey

Directions: Please circle the number that best describes your experience.

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Strongly Disagree 5. Disagree

1. Do you believe you are adequately prepared for this campus visit?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Do I really need to go on a college/university tour?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Were you provided with any information that pertains to this campus tour prior to departure?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Were you provided an opportunity to discuss your areas of interest before this campus tour?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Were you provided any prerequisites that you need in order to get accepted into college?	1	2	3	4	5
6. Do you know what you need to be successful in college once you have been accepted?	1	2	3	4	5
7. Do you have information about financial aid to help you pay for college?	1	2	3	4	5

Post-Survey

Directions: Please circle the number that best describes your experience.

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neutral 4. Strongly Disagree 5. Disagree

1. Did you gain valuable information about college life and admissions?	Yes	No
2. Do you feel more knowledgeable about the college/university you visited?	Yes	No
3. Did this campus visit influence your decision to attend college?	Yes	No
4. Did the college/university staff answer all your questions?	Yes	No
5. Did you feel welcomed on campus?	Yes	No
6. Does the college/university feel like a good fit for you?	Yes	No
7. Would you consider attending this college/university after high school?	Yes	No

Directions: Please provide an answer to the following short answer questions.

8. What questions do you still have about going to college?

9. What part of the tour did you enjoy the most?

10. What subject would you like to major in?

11. What career would you like to have once you graduate college?

12. Which of the following area(s) of the college did you visit? Check all that apply.

Library Dining Hall Various Classrooms

Student Union Computer Lab Recreation Center

Residence Hall Athletic Facilities

Other (please specify) _____

Sample College Post-Visit Survey

Name of campus visited: _____

Select the answer that best applies.	Yes	No	Maybe
I think I will go to college.			
I can picture myself as a college student.			
I believe I can afford to go to college.			
I can name at least one college major that interest me and is applicable to my future career.			
I know about student support services like tutoring and counseling that colleges offer.			
I know about clubs, activities, sports, and other social groups on college campus.			
I have talked to a current college student and asked him/her questions I have about college.			
I have talked to someone who works at a college and asked him/her questions I have about college.			

How did you prepare for this visit before coming to the campus?

(Select all that apply)

- Information from counselor
- Visited the college website
- Class or homework assignment
- Nothing
- Other

When I think of going to college, I think of:

Questions that I still about college that did not get answered?

Three things that I learned while on the college visit:

1.

2.

3.

Additional Resources

The following resources are helpful for middle school and early high school students, as well as for families who are new to the college admissions process.

Curriculum/Guides

Field Guide to Community & Technical Colleges: Guide features to Washington's 34 community and technical colleges.

<https://www.sbctc.edu/about/facts-publications/field-guide.aspx>

Career Guidance Washington- Supplemental Lessons: Career Guidance Washington is a career and college readiness program model designed to prepare all students for their future with support from an advisor and/or counselor with guidance curriculum and tools to develop the High School & Beyond Plan. This statewide guidance and life-planning program for all middle and high school students incorporates key program elements, best practices and recent data that indicate this college and career readiness program is working well when established as a school-wide program.

These lessons are geared to provide tools and templates for the new graduation "Personalized Pathway Requirement" starting with the Class of 2019 related to a specific post high school career or educational outcome chosen by student based on the student's interests and High School & Beyond Plan.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/CareerGuidanceWA/Grade6.aspx>

College and Career Resources and Financial Aid Information

Check Out a College: Career and college exploration specific to WA

www.checkoutacollege.com

College Board: College search, career/major search, exam prep and registration, financial aid info College search to determine admission requirements for college of choice

www.CollegeBoard.org

College Navigator: Find the right college for you. School Search/Virtual Tour/College Comparison

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Spanish Version of College Navigator: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/?md=1>

eCampus Tours: Virtual college tours of different schools

www.eCampusTours.com

Education Planner: One-stop career and college planning website for middle and high school students

www.educationplanner.org

First in the Family: College preparation and access resources. Targets low-income and first in the family.

www.firstinthefamily.org

Know How 2 Go: College preparation and access resources. Targets low-income and first in the family.

www.knowhow2go.org

Mapping your Future: Free resource for career, college, financial aid, and money management information.

www.mappingyourfuture.org

Minnesota Office of Higher Education: Resources on college preparation, selection, and financial aid

www.Getreadyforcollege.org

Montana GEAR UP

<http://mus.edu/gearup/>

NextStepU: College planning articles, tips on college tours, plus College Match

<http://www.nextstepu.com>

Oregon GEAR UP

<http://gearup.ous.edu/>

State Board of Community & Technical Colleges

www.sbctc.edu

HS Graduation Requirements/College Entrance Requirements

Washington Student Achievement Council: Minimum college admission requirements for Washington State

<http://www.readysetgrad.org/sites/default/files/minimum.college.admissions.standards.pdf>

OSPI Graduation Toolkit: Information for students, families, and teachers about high school graduation requirements.

www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/GraduationToolkit.aspx

State Board of Education: Minimum high school graduation requirements for WA State

www.sbe.wa.gov

Additional References

1. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
2. Adapted from [Campus Visits and College Interviews](#) by Zola Dincin Schneider and from [Big Future](#) by the College Board
3. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
4. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
5. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
6. Adapted from [Montana GEAR UP](#)
7. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
8. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
9. Adapted from [Montana GEAR UP](#)
10. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
11. Based on materials from [Sparking the Future, Lesson 3 for Grades 9-10](#)
12. Based on materials from [Sparking the Future, Lesson 4 for Grades 9-10](#)
13. Based on materials from [Sparking the Future, Lesson 5 for Grades 9-10](#)
14. Based on materials from [Sparking the Future, Lesson 7 for Grades 9-10](#)
15. Adapted from [Campus Visits and College Interviews](#) by Zola Dincin Schneider and from [Big Future](#) by the College Board.
16. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
17. Based on [MOHE Get Ready for College's College Comparison Worksheet](#)
18. Based on [MOHE Getting Ready for College's Campus Visit Checklist](#)
19. Based on Texas GEAR UP's Own Your Own Future [College Tour Questions](#)
20. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP and from [Montana GEAR UP](#)
21. Adapted from [KnowHow2Go's Mentor Workbook](#)
22. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP
23. Adapted from [Montana GEAR UP](#)
24. Based on [Mississippi Campus Tour Student Survey](#)
25. Adapted from [Planning a Successful College Visit](#) by Oregon GEAR UP



COLLEGE: MY DREAM. MY PLAN.

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