

HINTS FOR COLLEGE VISITING

Colleges are very much like people. They are special and unique. Thus, it is not always easy to match an individual person with a particular college. There are things students should include in the process:

- View the college website for pertinent visiting information.
- A careful reading of college profiles or catalogs.
- A visit with your counselor to clarify purpose of the college visit, identify questions, request an unofficial transcript.
- Obtain the names of high school alumni who attend the college. Refer to the "Friends on Campus" box located in the guidance office.
- The arrangement of an appointment at colleges of interest at least two or three weeks in advance. This may be done by calling the admissions office. Students should specify the desire to stay overnight, visit with students or attend classes.

It is true that a campus visit makes the selection process somewhat simpler and wiser. Some of the things students should look for on these occasions:

- Do the college students seem to be happy? How do they treat visitors? What is their attitude about study? Does the student body represent a healthy cross-section of society?
- Is the campus appealing?
- What security measures are in place?
- Is the college located in an area where one's particular needs for theater, museums, shopping, cultural events, the out-of-doors, recreation can be met?
- Are the buildings in good shape? Are the grounds well kept? Are new facilities planned?
- Are faculty and staff members approachable and available?
- Is the overall spirit friendly, but purposeful?
- Is the library well-used, well-staffed, and well-equipped with convenient hours for student use?
- Are the signs and notices posted on campus an indication of an alive, open and responsive community? What is going on? What is being done? Who is coming there to speak or to perform?
- Are counseling services provided for academic and emotional support?
- Is there an orientation for freshmen? Does it include Decision-Making Skills, Coping with Stress, Substance Abuse on campus and an introduction to all college support services?
- Bring a camera.