Okay, guys—it’s here. Time for you to start visiting colleges (finally)!
Whether you’re pumped or nervous, I’m here to help you through the process
so you know exactly what to expect, do and ask every step of the way.

LET’S DO IT.
**BEFORE YOU GO**

**PLAN AHEAD.**
Find out when your colleges are hosting official tours. (That doesn’t mean you have to go then, but you definitely want to go during the school year when the campus is alive.) Register or make an appointment before you go.

**TALK TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL.**
Find out their policies on visiting colleges, and get excused absences if possible.

**DO YOUR HOMEWORK.**
A lot of the basic info you need about each college is available online. Research that first so you can spend your time on campus learning about stuff you can’t find on the school’s website!

**REFLECT.**
Think through [and write down!] what matters most to you about where you go to college, what you want to know about each school, and what specific questions you want answered by people on campus.

**TALK TO THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE.**
Ask about setting up times to meet with current students and professors (and a coach, if you’re playing sports). Ask if you can sit in on a class, too.

**DON’T EXPECT EVERYTHING TO BE PERFECT.**
It might rain, the class you want to go to might get canceled, your tour guide might be having an off day—try not to let those things make or break your visit. Keep an open mind and don’t be too quick to write off a school just because the tour didn’t go as planned.

**WHEN YOU GET THERE**

**GET THERE EARLY.**
Staff, faculty and guides are busy—be respectful of everyone’s time!

**CONNECT WITH PEOPLE.**
Get the names and contact info of anyone you meet with and ask if you can reach out to them later if you have more questions. Also, pay attention to how you feel around the people on campus. Are they welcoming? Do you feel comfortable around them?

**GET THE OFFICIAL CAMPUS TOUR.**
Make sure you see all the places you’d use as a student: classrooms, dorms, the department for your major, library, rec center, football stadium, cafeteria [you need to see if the food is actually good!].

**EXPLORE ON YOUR OWN.**
If you have time, walk around campus and check out the scene in the nearest neighborhood or city.

**SIT IN ON CLASSES.**
This is a great chance to see if you like the teaching style and content, how formal or informal it is, and if the other students seem like they’re enjoying it. Just make sure it’s cool with the admissions office and professors.

**ATTEND A COLLEGE EVENT.**
It can be really fun to go to a game, concert or play to get a better sense of campus life.
GET THE RUNDOWN ON COSTS.

Make sure you understand all of the fees (even “hidden” ones like meal plan options and sororities and fraternities), and confirm important deadlines on stuff like the FAFSA, early admission process, scholarship programs, and work-study programs.

ASK GOOD QUESTIONS.

Hint: If it’s something you can look up online, it’s probably not the best question. And make sure to be specific.

WRITE DOWN THE HIGHLIGHTS.

Jot down anything you liked/disliked about the college. If you’re visiting a lot of schools, your notes will be helpful when you’re trying to narrow down your options.

SEND THANK-YOU NOTES.

Whether it’s an email or handwritten note, anyone who took the time to meet with you and show you around deserves to be thanked!

ASK YOURSELF:

Do I want to attend that school? Can I see myself there?

AFTER YOU LEAVE

LOOK BACK OVER YOUR LIST.

What’s important to you in your choice of college? How does this college line up with your list?

VISIT A SECOND TIME.

If you can’t decide between two schools, you might need to go back and tour them again [if you can fit it into your budget and schedule].

TRUST YOUR GUT.

If your gut is telling you no—listen to it. If your gut is telling you yes—listen to it. This is an important life decision, and some serious prayer and reflection is always a good idea.

HERE ARE A FEW GOOD QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Where are the best places to find information about jobs on campus?
- What are the best ways to save money on tuition and expenses?
- Where are the best places on campus to study?
- How are roommates assigned and can you choose your own?
- How does the career center help students and graduates?
- How many graduates either find a job or attend graduate school within six months?
- What makes this school different from any other school?

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS, CHECK OUT MY NEW BOOK, DEBT-FREE DEGREE.

LEARN MORE