



COLLEGE CAMPUS TOUR CHECKLIST

Exploring pathways for higher education is an exciting experience with so many possibilities! One of the best ways to begin is by visiting a college or university campus for a guided tour. It's never too early to start your search and see what opportunities are available.

Check out this step-by-step guide to help you make the most of your visit to any college campus.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

- **Book your tour online** on the Admissions/Campus Tour website, if needed, and look into the college's student-to-faculty ratio (this may differ based on the major/program you're interested in).
- **Get prepared.** This foundational knowledge will help you focus your visit.
 - Research the college's size.
 - Browse through the major programs and minors offered.
 - Explore more about the campus setting and overall culture.
- **Understand admission requirements.** Knowing these details will allow you to ask informed questions during your visit.
 - Familiarize yourself with the admission and application process.
 - Make sure you're aware of important dates and deadlines.
 - Understand which documents are required during the admission process.
 - Use social media to research the school, their academic departments, programs and more. Follow the channels that interest you so you can explore more during your visit.
- **Identify points of interest for your tour.** Creating a list of campus resources that interest you can help ensure you're able to explore these areas more during your visit.
 - Specific academic departments.
 - Facilities and resources available to students in the majors that interest you.
 - Lab spaces where students get hands-on experience.
 - Academic or support programs you're interested in.

TIPS FOR THE DAY OF YOUR TOUR

Wear comfortable walking shoes!
Most campus tours are 1 hour to 1.5 hours, so plan for a long walk.

Consider the weather.
Bring a coat if it's going to rain or be cold. Sometimes, students would show up in sweatshirts for their 50-degree-weather tour.

Walk near the front of the tour group.
Campus tour groups may be huge, so park yourself near the front of the group so you can hear everything. The people in the back miss a lot.

Be aware of the length of the tour.
Bring a water bottle to ensure you stay hydrated, and don't forget to use the bathroom before your tour.

Be considerate of your tour guide.
Most student tour guides have a prescribed hour to fit in the whole tour, and making everyone else wait could mean the student might be late for class.

Ask questions.
Everywhere you go! Ask if you can go into buildings not on the tour. If you see a building and your tour guide does not plan to go in, ask if you can. They might say yes or suggest you swing back at the end of the tour or later during your visit.

There is usually time at the end of your tour to ask your guide any final questions or even meet with undergraduate admissions staff.

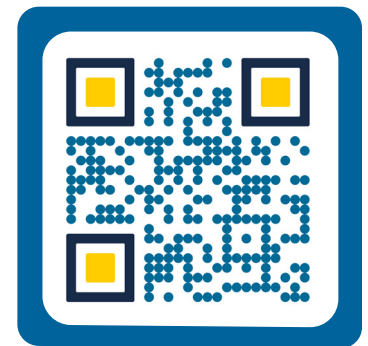
AFTER YOUR VISIT

- ▶ Continue exploring campus and the surrounding area. If time permits, you can visit some additional areas after your tour.
- ▶ Check out the Bookstore and pick up a keepsake.
- ▶ Explore on-campus food options.
- ▶ Sit in on a class, if possible (prior reservations may be required).
- ▶ Visit the gym or recreation facilities.
- ▶ Head to nearby off-campus landmarks or attractions.
- ▶ Discover local restaurants, shopping, and entertainment.
- ▶ Figure out public transportation options to and from the campus.
- ▶ Get answers to remaining questions. If you need additional information, most schools have staff available to reply to inquiries via online contact forms, email, or phone, so don't be afraid to reach out.
- ▶ Decide if the college seems like a good fit for you. Think about all you learned and if the college offers the academic programs and student experience you're looking for, and if it seems like a place you'd like to live for four years.
- ▶ Stay connected. Most schools showcase their academics, student life, athletics, fun events, and much more on their website or social media channels. If you're interested in applying in the



NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH?

UC San Diego's Student Outreach and Engagement is happy to help as you explore options for the future! Check out our online toolkit to explore more information to get you started, including resources for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as students planning to transfer to a four-year university.



[OUTREACH.UCSD.EDU/TOOLKIT](https://outreach.ucsd.edu/toolkit)