



How to Research Colleges During Covid-19 Closures

Without being about to physically visit many campuses this Fall, it seems impossible to finalize your college list. It is NOT impossible!

The following outlines a few ideas of how to truly understand a college's offerings and opportunities without stepping on campus.

Virtual college tours – Most colleges have revamped their virtual college tours. Some schools are doing these live, while others are recorded. These virtual opportunities should be your first attempt in your research. Not only will they give you a broad landscape of what the university offers, but by signing up, you will be demonstrating interest to the college.

Take notes and jot down any questions that you have to help you make your decision.

Academic Adviser meetings – Whether you know exactly what you want to study OR if you are undecided, each college will offer academic advising. You can set up meetings with individual academic advisors via phone/zoom to ask more specific questions about each program. In order to do this, create 3-4 questions that would be important to you in your studies. Use these questions when meeting with each academic advisor that you meet with. When you gather the specifics about each program, you will be able to begin comparing the schools on your list.

For example: if you want to study journalism, you might ask:

- 1.) What opportunities in real journalistic settings do students have?
- 2.) How do alumni interact in order to help job placement?
- 3.) How much room in the major is there to double major or minor within 4 years?

Once you begin seeing differences between each school, you will better understand what fits your needs. No two schools offers the EXACT same educational opportunities!

Take notes and jot down any questions that you have to help you make your decision. Also remember to keep contact information of the people you speak with on each call.

Student Outreach – Ask to speak with current students about their experiences academically and socially. Peers are a great way to learn more about the type of students the college attracts, the level of competition academically, how what the social environment looks like on/off campus.