

## How to get the most out of a college fair

### TIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM THE ASSOCIATED COLLEGES OF THE MIDWEST

#### Going to a college fair

- Take along a pen and a small notebook.
- Take a bag to carry the brochures you pick up.
- Print out some address labels with your name, address, phone number, email address, high school and year of graduation. Spend your time at the college tables asking questions, not filling out contact cards!
- When you arrive, check out the floor plan and find out where the tables for your top-choice colleges are located so you can go directly to them.
- Write your most important questions down in advance so you don't forget them.
- Check on whether any information sessions, such as financial aid, are being offered. Interested? Budget your time accordingly.
- Jot down notes about a college while your memory is fresh, such as right after visiting the table.
- Pick up the business cards of any representatives you talk to, so you can contact them if you have any more questions.

#### After you get home

- Make a point of going through the materials and your notes within one week after the fair. You'll probably remember more about your conversations with college representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college that interests you by contacting the admission office to ask further questions, and, if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

**Source:** *Associated Colleges of the Midwest* ([www.acm.edu](http://www.acm.edu))

#### Handout 3F

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES**

- How can I arrange a campus visit? Are there any special visitation days on your campus?
- What are the application deadlines for admission and financial aid?
- How do you assign faculty advisors to students, especially those who are undecided about their major?
- What percentage of the students are commuter students?
- When must I choose a major?
- What types of extracurricular activities are there on campus?
- How accessible are the professors outside of class?
- How are roommates selected?
- How safe is your school? Where can I obtain statistics about crimes on your campus?
- What additional academic services do you offer to students (tutoring, career counseling, study skills workshops)?
- What types of internship/co-op experiences are available?

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING DISABILITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS**

- Are there specialized programs available? What are they?
- Are there special admissions procedures? What are they?
- Which standardized tests are required?
- What types of documentation are needed to request accommodations?
- Should testing and/or IEP be sent with application?
- What types of accommodations (note-takers, tape recorders in class, etc.) are allowed?
- Are there extra fees for learning disability related services? How much and what for?

## **Before the fair, it's a good idea to do a little preparation.**

- Answer the following questions to help you determine what kind of school would best suit you:
- Do you want to attend a two or four year institution? Co-ed or single-sex?
- What size school do you want to attend?
- What programs of study are you considering?
- How far from home do you want to go?
- Do you wish to participate in any specific extracurricular activities or athletics?
- Do you want to attend a school in an urban, suburban, or rural environment?
  - Do you require any special services (i.e., tutoring, note taker, readers, interpreters)?
  - Discuss your college plans with your guidance counselor, family, teachers, and friends.
  - Research your colleges of interest on the Internet and in the guidance office, media center, or computer lab.
  - Check dates and registration deadlines for college entrance examinations.
  - Create labels or profile cards with your name, address, email, and phone number, name of high school, year of graduation and your area of interest. This will help avoid time spent on filling out Information Cards on College Fair night.

Bring a pen or pencil and a notebook to jot down notes about the conversations with individual college representatives, and pick up the cards of college representatives for future reference. It is helpful to have a specific name when requesting information or and interview.

## **AT THE FAIR...**

- Pick up a bag and fair directory.
- Visit with colleges and universities you feel meet your criteria.

Talk with a representative at the Resource Table if you have any questions or need help with your college search.