

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAREER & COLLEGE FAIR

Going to a career and college fair...

- Bring a pen and a small notebook.
- Bring 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 exhibits 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 or careers are located so you can go directly to them.
- Talk with a representative at the resource table if you have any questions or need help with your career and college search.
- 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, 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 representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college or career that interests you by contacting the admissions office or career representative to ask further questions, and if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

PREPPING FOR THE CAREER & COLLEGE FAIR

Answer the following questions to help you determine what kind of school or career would suit you best...

- Are you interested in going to college or would you prefer to explore careers after high school?
- If you're interested in a career, what types of careers would you like to learn more about?
- If you're interested in going to college, 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 takers, readers, interpreters)?
- Discuss your career and college plans with your guidance counselor, family, teachers, and friends.
- Research your careers and colleges of interest.
- Check date and registration deadlines for college entrance examinations.
- Create labels or profile cards with your name, address, email, phone number, high school, year of graduation, and your area of interest. This will help avoid time spent filling out information cards on the night of the fair.
- Bring a pen or pencil and a notebook to jot down notes about the conversations with individual representatives.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET TO THE FAIR

When you get to the fair...

- Pick up a bag and fair directory.
- Visit with careers and colleges that meet your criteria.
- Pick up the business cards of representatives that you speak to for future reference. It is helpful to have a specific contact name when requesting information or an interview.

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 students are commuter students?
- When must I choose a major?
- What types of extracurricular activities are there on campus?
- How accessible are 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 students (tutoring, career counseling, study skills workshops)?
- What types of internships or 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 my 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 does it cost and what does it cover?