

# Attend a college fair

Attending college fairs is a must! You will have dozens of college admission representatives from schools far and wide all gathered in one spot — so don't miss it! And, worse, don't come unprepared.

## What's the game plan?

Know what to expect — how is the event structured, what's the dress code like, and even how long the event will run. These seem pretty basic, but you don't want to show up late and dressed inappropriately. Just ask organizers or counselors prior to the event and you'll be ready for the day.

## Who's there?

Get a list of schools in attendance before you go to the college fair, and plan your time wisely. Collect as much college information as you can. Better yet, before you go to the fair have a list of hot prospects you want to check out. Pull that list together by doing online research and using our Match tool at [NextStepU.com/Match](http://NextStepU.com/Match) to find schools that fit your criteria!

## During the fair

Show your initiative by talking to the college reps at the college fairs; they are often the ones who will review your application. A student who asks great questions

## Good questions to ask representatives:

- How would you describe the student body's personality?
- How is this school distinctive?
- How many students transfer to another school during or after their first year?

on college night is an admission rep's dream!

## Don't waste time

Do not use the college fair as a time to socialize with neighbors and friends. Use your time wisely. Keep an open mind when at the fair. There will be at least a handful of colleges you've never heard of. Make it a priority to stop by the tables of two or three schools that are not household names. The reputation of a university does not guarantee that it's the best school for you.

## Leave with homework

Pick up as much literature as possible from a variety of colleges. Ask for an application, information on specific majors and a financial aid brochure. Before leaving each table and moving on to the next, ask the admissions representative

for a business card. This will provide you with a contact person in the admissions office, someone who might later be able to serve as an advocate for your application.

After the event, sort through all of the information (and goodies!) you picked up throughout the day. Spend a bit more time comparing programs, locations, class size, etc. And getting ready for your next step — the campus tour!

## Read more!

Get more tips on what to do at college fairs at [LINKForCounselors.com](http://LINKForCounselors.com)

