

preparing for and attending college fairs

VSAC

College fairs provide you with an opportunity to meet representatives from college admissions offices. You'll be able to ask questions and obtain or request applications and other information from the colleges and VSAC. Representatives who attend this event want to talk with you about your interest in their schools. Because they come prepared to answer your questions, you need to come prepared to ask them!

Before the fair — get prepared

1. Research your college options before attending the college fair. This will make your experience and time at the fair more worthwhile and meaningful. Ask yourself, "What do I need/want in a college education?" and start your research by using the following resources:
 - your school counseling office
 - the College Navigator online tool at www.collegenavigator.gov. In the left-hand column, you can select from various search options, including type of school, tuition levels, geographical setting, types of programs, and more.
 - college guide books and catalogs in your high school guidance office
 - college Web sites
2. Research five to ten colleges to see at the fair. Develop specific questions (see page 2) to make a good first impression with the schools you may favor.
3. Use your time more effectively at the fair by bringing self-addressed labels with the information listed below. This will leave you with more time to talk with college representatives.
 - name
 - address
 - phone number
 - graduation year
 - intended major
 - high school

At the fair

1. Visit each college on your list, making sure to give each representative your full attention. Ask your questions and take notes.
2. Ask for the name and business card of each representative you talk to so that you can contact him or her later for follow-up questions or information.
3. Be selective about the college materials you gather.



sample questions for a college fair

1. What is your admissions deadline?
2. Does your college require its own financial aid application? What is the deadline? Do you require the CSS Profile?
3. What sort of housing options are available to me?
4. What tutoring or learning support services does your school provide?
5. Do you offer any special programs during the school year to better acquaint high school seniors with your college?
6. What activities are popular on campus?
7. How many students live on campus?
8. How do first-year students choose their classes?
9. What options are available for study abroad?
10. What percentage of last year's first-year students returned for sophomore year?
11. What services are available to help me with career planning?
12. What percentage of your first-year students eventually graduate?
13. When and how should I schedule an interview at your school?

and if you know what your major is going to be ...

14. What are the admissions requirements for my major?
15. What percentage of the total student body is in my major?
16. What is the placement rate for students graduating in my major?
17. If I'm considering two possible majors:
 - a. How should I apply?
 - b. Is it easy to transfer or switch majors?
 - c. How long do I have before I have to choose?



**Vermont Student
Assistance Corporation**

10 East Allen Street
PO Box 2000
Winooski, VT 05404
Toll-free **800-642-3177**
In the Burlington area **655-9602**

Visit our Web site at www.vsac.org
E-mail us at info@vsac.org