

How to Use an Education Fair

The U.S. Education Fair will provide you with innumerable opportunities to talk with representatives from U.S. colleges and universities that are actively seeking students just like you. For many of you who cannot visit the colleges you are interested in, this is your chance to learn first-hand about the particular schools, and for the representatives to meet and learn a bit about you!

Take a few minutes to review the school profiles. We hope that you have had an opportunity to do some advance research about the schools participating in the fair today. The college and universities profiles on the fair webpage will help you learn about participating institutions so that you can use your time efficiently.

Formulate questions that will give you information that is useful in your search. This can be done before even stepping foot in the education fair, but as you become engaged in this process, you will think of many more questions.

Don't be afraid. Approach representatives and ask questions. If you feel embarrassed at first, observe others. The representatives who are at the fair are skilled in helping students get started.

Provide information about yourself. It is important that you give information about yourself to the representatives so that they can follow up, sending information about areas of the college that might interest you. You can complete an inquiry card at the fair or beforehand.

- ✓ Fill out cards legibly and with dark pen
- ✓ There is no cost to you
- ✓ Completing a card does not mean you want to attend the institution
- ✓ Do not abbreviate, if possible
- ✓ Make sure you write your complete mailing address and email address
- ✓ Answer all questions

Your behavior leaves an impression--use this to your benefit. Introduce yourself and *never* just pick up brochures and pamphlets and then walk away without speaking to the representative.

Do not go from table to table in a group or follow friends around. The college search is very personal, and your talks with the college representatives should be as well.

Keep an open mind. With over four thousand colleges and universities in the U.S., it is impossible to know about all of them. The education fair gives you an opportunity to learn something new about a school you would have never considered.

After the Fair. After the fair, talk with your parents about what you learned, perhaps even make some notes in a journal while your thoughts are fresh. If you were especially impressed with a college, you may want to follow up with the representative. You may contact that person via email, telephone or regular mail.

Sample Questions to Ask College Representatives

- ◆ What is the ratio of students to faculty?
- ◆ How accessible are professors outside of class?
- ◆ How active is your international student affairs office and what programs do they offer throughout the year?
- ◆ What do students like most about college? Like least?
- ◆ What are the dominant social groups on campus?
- ◆ What are the most popular/famous programs on campus?
- ◆ What might students do on a typical weekend?
- ◆ What housing opportunities are available (on-campus dormitories, apartments, co-ops, off-campus housing)?
- ◆ What is the graduation rate? What is the graduation rate for international students?
- ◆ What kind of career services are available for international students?
- ◆ Do you offer deferred admissions?
- ◆ Can international students work on campus?

KEY TO COMMON DEGREE ABBREVIATIONS

A.A.	Associate of Arts
A.A.S.	Associate of Applied Science
A.S.	Associate of Science
B.A.	Bachelor of Arts
B.S.	Bachelor of Science
B.F.A.	Bachelor of Fine Arts
B.S.F.S.	Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service
J.D.	Doctor of Jurisprudence
LL.M.	Master of Laws
M.A.	Master of Arts
M.B.A.	Master of Business Administration
M.D.	Doctor of Medicine
M.Eng.	Master of Engineering
M.F.A.	Master of Fine Arts
M.P.A.	Master of Public Administration
M.P.H.	Master of Public Health
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
R.N.	Registered Nurse

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