

Making College Fairs Work For You

Attending a college fair is a great opportunity to begin researching schools and speaking with college representatives. Fairs provide students and colleges an opportunity to both share and exchange information. Students find the fair format conducive to gathering a lot of information about a variety of colleges and universities in a short period of time. The following suggestions may help you use a college fair effectively:

STUDENTS

- **RESEARCH** the colleges that are attending the fair to determine which ones appear to meet your needs. By doing this, you can develop a short list of “must see” colleges. Once you have visited with the representatives of these schools, then you should browse the fair to gather information about other colleges and universities.
- **DEVELOP** a list of questions to ask when meeting with college representatives and have a way of recording the answers. The results can be used later when you compare colleges. List of questions available in Junior College Planning Guide and at www.collegeboard.com
- **PREPARE** a set of computer labels for the fair which contain pertinent information (name, address, city, state, zip, telephone number, high school year of graduation, academic major interest, extracurricular interests, etc.), or at least bring address labels. This will save time when you fill out cards at the various college booths.
- **BE CONCERNED** about your personal appearance. Remember, you want to make a good first impression on the college representative. He/she may be one of the people who will ultimately read your application.
- **DON'T BE NERVOUS:** College representatives are expecting you, and want to talk with you.

PARENTS

- **ACT** as an advisor (not a director) to your child.
- **ASSIST** your student in developing a plan on how to use the fair effectively.
- **WORK** with your child as he/she develops a list of colleges to see and questions to ask.
- **ATTEND** the fair with your child, but let your child do the talking. Take notes so you can remember what the representative said. Compare your observations and feelings with those of your child after the fair.
- **HELP** your child analyze the information obtained at the college fair.

NOTE: Be open to learning about a school you may not have heard of. It may be the ideal school for you!

Please Visit The Links Below To Find A College Fair Near You

TEC (The Education Cooperative)

Tec offers college fairs in both the spring and fall

For more information please visit <http://www.tec-coop.org/student-programs/college-fairs>

The New England Association for College Admission Counseling offers college fairs in both the spring and fall. Please refer to the following link for a complete NEACAC College Fair Schedule <http://www.neacac.org/>.

The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), founded in 1937, is an organization of more than 12,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. Parents and students participating in National College Fairs meet one-on-one with representatives from colleges and universities to discuss admission and financial aid opportunities at their respective institutions. Please visit <http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/students-parents/Pages/default.aspx> for their college fair schedules.

The Rhode Island College Fair offered by the Rhode Island Association of Admission Officers. The fair is free to high school students, parents and anyone else interested in higher education. Students can meet one-on-one with admission counselors at their booths to discuss entrance requirements, campus life, application deadlines and majors. Representatives will have brochures, catalogs and other literature. For more information please visit <http://www.riao.com/>.

Boston Performing & Visual Arts College Fair

for more information please visit <http://www.nacacnet.org/pvastudent>

Boston National Portfolio Day

National Portfolio Days are educational events for young artists held at host colleges throughout the U.S. and Canada. Portfolio Days bring together students and experienced college representatives, who review artwork, offer critique, discuss college plans, and share information about their schools. For more information please visit <http://www.portfolioday.net/>.

Gap Year Fairs - <http://www.usagapyearfairs.org/>

USA Gap Year Fairs is a national circuit of events that bring together reputable Gap Year organizations, interested students and parents, high school college counselors and the Gap Year experts. These events are designed to provide students with a broad exposure of Gap Year Programs and the opportunity for face to face conversations with the people who work in the field. For students and parents interested in Gap Year, these fairs are the legitimate source to connect with reputable organizations that focus on Education, Service and Personal Growth...