

Your Handbook
For Success

CAMPUS VISIT



**OFFICIAL
GUIDE**

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

While some students will immediately pursue a two- or four-year education, others will choose a different route, and the reasons vary. No matter where you are in the journey choosing the right school will be one of the biggest decisions you will make up to this point in your life.

We have put together this handbook to help families and, prospective college bound students, student-athletes navigate the process and find the right educational opportunity.

When you begin your investigation, remember no two schools are the same and each has unique aspects and characteristics. If you are making/taking campus visits always ask questions and create a list of pros and cons of each school, you visit.

Ask for a copy of the “student-handbook” this book is your rights and remedies when attending the school and you will need to sign the letter of acknowledgment. So read the handbooks and ask questions if you are not sure. The goal is to find the best school that fits your personal goals and needs. Never settle. The right school is out there.

Campus Visit Check List

These are a few tips to help you prepare. Dress for success. Don’t wear tattered jeans or flip-flops, do wear appropriate clothes, this is actually an interview, and you need to be neat, clean and organized. So, let us get started!

Your Check List

- Research the school prior to your visit.
- Schedule your appointment with the admissions officer.
- Schedule your appointment with the financial aid officer.
- Schedule your appointment with the professor and/or coach.
- Create and send your personal profile with your accomplishments and career objective.
 - Admission, Dean of academic department, professor and or coach.
- Take an un-official high school transcript [obtained from your HS counselor].
- Ask about admission requirements GPA, SAT/ACT and or essay requirements.
- While on campus sit in on class lectures if possible.
- Eat at the campus dining hall and talk to other students about their likes and dislikes.
- Read the student newsletter/campus flyers.
- Look at bulletin boards to see what is going on and campus activities.
- Check out the student center and other facilities available to the students.
- Ask students while you are walking around why they chose the school.
- Ask students what they like and do not like about the school.
- Observe the students and their behavior, how they dress.

- Research alumni of the school and their academic major.
- Attend an athletic event and see what campus life all is about.
- If you are interested in “Greek” life inquire and ask about cost.

For parents here are a few items you will want to inquire about if your student does not ask:

- Campus Security
- Mandatory Study Halls
- Tutors for your student-athlete
- Housing/Dorm deposits
- Class breaks
- Any additional fees for labs, computers, etc.

Find out what other costs are associated with attending the school and if the school will waive out of state tuition and how to become an instate student.

Ask about scholarships, grants, and aid, do not be afraid to walk away if the cost is too much. Remember schools need students and tuition to stay open, ask about fiscal responsibility and worse case, if the school closes due to financial issues will the school be reimbursing you for lost course work due to closure and will credits earned be accepted at another school?

Case and point:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/closed-colleges-list-statistics-major-closures/>

- *At least seventy-six public or nonprofit colleges have closed, merged, or announced closures or mergers since March 2020.*
- *47,130 students have been impacted by college closures since 2020.*
- *New predictive modeling from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has identified more closures ahead in the event of a drastic enrollment cliff.*
- *Across the country, colleges are increasingly shuttering as enrollment continues to decline due to natural population trends and higher operating costs.*
- *At the end of 2024, the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia developed a model to predict college closures, estimating that up to eighty colleges could close next year due to financial distress following a worst-case-scenario drop in enrollment.*

Not completing a college degree program could affect the likelihood of defaulting on a student loan. If you are a student, there are steps you can take if your college closes, like finishing your program at another school or getting a discharge for federal student loans.

4 Steps to Take If Your College Closes

If your school announces it is closing, take these steps.



Evaluate Your Options

Pay attention to the resources your school offers and its communications. Your school might offer a teach-out agreement, which means you can finish your program at another college or university. You can accept or deny this agreement.

If you choose the teach-out option, your credits will all transfer to the new program automatically. You can also transfer elsewhere. Before you begin the transfer process, ensure your new institution offers your academic program or something similar.

The new school might not accept all your earned credits, which could mean you lose ground toward completing your degree. You can also consider completing an online program.

Whatever option you choose, be sure to contact the admissions office at the school you are considering explaining your situation and learn the next steps.



Determine Whether You Can Discharge Your Loans

You might be eligible for a federal closed school loan discharge, depending on how your school closed. This means you will not have to repay your loan. You may qualify for a loan discharge if your school shuts down entirely while enrolled or offers a teach-out option.

However, if your school merges or is purchased by another institution, you will not be able to discharge your loans. Similarly, if you transfer elsewhere, you cannot discharge your loans. Review your options carefully and contact your financial aid office for more information.



Get Copies of Your Documents

You should document your academic progress for other schools and future employers. Some institutions will establish a document repository at another institution, while others will use a transcript service. Order several copies to have on hand and save a digital copy just in case.

You will also want to keep your school's academic catalog and copies of the syllabi from all the classes you took for future reference. These documents will be important if you encounter any problems transferring to another institution.

If there are any other important documents, you will want to get copies, as it will be harder to get them after the school closes. Additionally, be sure to exchange contact information with professors and other students to use in your professional network.



If You are an Alumni

If your alma mater closes, this does not mean your degree loses value or is not valid. You still earned the education and degree you received.

If your school has merged with another, it could introduce new opportunities for continued learning and provide a new alumni network to connect with. When one door closes, many more could open.