



# Bishop Ready High School

## Guidelines for College Visits

1. NOTE: Juniors are allowed up to two school days for college visits. *These are considered excused absences only if the following three (3) conditions are met:* a parent/guardian accompanies you, you bring a note to the attendance office *at least two weeks in advance of the intended visit*, and on the first school day after the visit you submit the College Visit Verification Form signed by a college official. (A College Visit Verification Form is available to download from this site or in the Guidance Office.) Early notice to the guidance office allows guidance personnel to help you plan your visit so you can get the most from it. Schedule visits early in the quarter so you have time to make up missed work.

2. We suggest: Spend some time talking with people about colleges, visiting the guidance office and using the resources there to research potential college choices. Read bulletin boards and junior-senior notes searching for clues about scholarship opportunities, special programs, or something that might be meant for you. The two full days visiting colleges might be initial visits, repeat visits to colleges you saw over the summer and that are still in the running as top choices, or they might be used to fit in two colleges on one day's visit.

3. Contact colleges early to find out when they have special Open House days. Open House visits offer a different perspective than a personal visit. Both are valuable.

4. Wise students will visit more than 2 colleges. Plan extra college visits on the other scheduled holidays such as Labor Day (many colleges actually have classes on Labor Day and you can even sit in on one to see how it feels), Faculty In-Service days, half-days, spring break, summer break, & raffle free days.

- 1) Plan what people or departments you want to see (e.g. Admissions, Financial Aid, someone in your major department, athletic personnel...). Don't forget to include a visit to the Career Planning and Placement Office to find out what percentage of graduates get work in their major. Also, inquire about any other specialty areas that you might need/want such as tutoring, disability services, minority services...
- 2) Phone the Admissions Office of the college and let them know the date that you would like to visit and whom you want to see (locate college phone numbers in the Guidance Office; some colleges have 800 numbers.) Ask about Open House dates.
- 3) Most Admissions Offices will contact everyone you want to see and set up individual appointments for you. **BE SURE TO BE ON TIME** and to send a thank you note afterwards.
- 4) Given enough notice, some colleges will even mail you a map along with a free parking pass, or free lunch ticket; some even give you the opportunity to spend a night in a dorm to get an idea of dorm life there. However, these things take time and you don't get the same opportunities if you simply drop in or call the day before.
- 5) Take notes on your visits (not so much the things you could/should have found by reading, like size, cost, or if they offer your major...but how did it feel, what was special about the place and the people? What little things did you notice that matter to you? (e.g. friendly staff, modern or traditional, landscape/environment, good food service...) If you don't do this, or if you postpone doing it until after you have visited more than one college, you may find that the experience becomes less clear in your memory and you may not remember which experience is associated with which school. You may have wasted an opportunity to make an informed choice based on experience.
- 6) The Guidance Office is here and prepared to help you with your college visit plans. Bring your calendar with you and also your answer to questions posed in 1) above.