

## Why should I meet with College Reps?

Every fall, representatives from college admission offices visit high schools around the country to present informational programs to prospective students, their parents, and counselors. During their visits, college reps **meet with interested students in small groups** to discuss topics like the academic programs, campus life, financial aid programs, and admission procedures of their college. They will also **answer students' questions**.

With so much information already available to students on college websites, in college catalogs, and elsewhere, you may wonder why you should attend these in-person sessions. Below are **six reasons**:

1. Students have a chance—in their own hometown—to **meet face to face** with a representative from the college and to **ask specific questions**.
2. Students can **let the college know they are seriously interested**.
3. Since in many cases, the reps are admission officers from the college, students have a unique opportunity to **make contact with a person who may be evaluating their application** in the future.
4. The meeting provides students with a **specific contact** at the college to whom they can send questions.
5. Sometimes reps, particularly ones from state universities, will give an early read on students' transcripts, test scores, course selections, and so on during their visits, which helps students **assess their fit** at that institution and figure out what they can do to **improve their chances** of getting in.
6. It's an opportunity for a counselor to **bring to a student's attention** a school that he/she thinks is a good fit but that the student may not have considered.

Another reason has to do with the somewhat controversial admissions practice of assessing "**demonstrated interest**," in which admissions officers judge which students are most interested in attending their college, and admit applicants partially on that basis. This is one way to increase a college's yield (the number of students accepted by a school who actually enroll).

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