

# CBM College Visit Guide: General Info

## BEFORE YOU GO...

- Check the college's calendar to make sure school is in session and tours are available
- Register online for information session and campus tour
- Email your regional Admissions Rep to introduce yourself and let him/her know that you'll be visiting (Demonstrated interest)
- Plan to dress comfortably but also to make a good impression
- Plan to visit no more than 2 schools per day
- Do preliminary research, take virtual tours and watch schools' YouTube videos
- Get in touch with current students or alum from your high school
- You should be familiar with:
  - What type of campus: urban, suburban, rural?
  - How many students?
  - How many students from out-of-state?
  - What programs are offered in my area of interest?
  - Is there anything special about the curriculum?
  - What are the distribution/general ed/core requirements?
  - What is the student to faculty ratio?
  - What clubs and other extracurriculars are offered?
  - What athletics are available (spectator and participant)
  - Is there a Greek system?
  - What is the total cost?
  - Does the school meet 100% demonstrated financial need?
  - Is there merit aid available?
- Prepare questions for admissions reps and tour guides
- Bring your questions and something for taking notes (Phone, iPad, journal, etc.)
- Set up interview if available

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE...

- Make sure to check in
- Join the tour with the guide whose interests align with yours
- Consider splitting off from parents and touring separately for feeling of independence and to experience different perspectives

## WHAT TO LISTEN FOR DURING THE INFORMATION SESSION...

- What is the school known for?
- How does the application review process work?
- What type of student is a good fit?
- What qualities make a student successful at the school?
- What attributes is the school looking for besides grades and scores (e.g., Academic rigor? Community service? Leadership?)
- What is the school looking for in an essay/personal statement?
- How does the school handle supplemental materials?
- What are common mistakes that applicants make?
- Specifics about the curriculum/program (Can you switch between schools, core requirements, graduation requirements, etc.)
- What are the institutional priorities?

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING YOUR TOUR...

- What are the students like?
- What is the mood/energy on campus?
- Are students interacting? Do they look happy/enthusiastic?
- Is the campus self-contained or integrated into the town/city?
- Do you like the feel of the campus and surrounding area?
- How are the dorms?
- How is the cafeteria(s) and other dining options?
- How are the facilities (Rec center, study areas, labs, etc.)?
- Does the campus feel safe?

## WHEN A TOUR ISN'T ENOUGH...

- Sit in on a class
- Eat in the cafeteria
- Read the school newspaper
- Check out the bulletin boards
- Visit career services
- Talk to students on campus
- Explore the surrounding area
- Spend an overnight (Some schools arrange)
  - Attend a sporting event
  - Attend a party

# CBM College Visit Guide: Suggested Questions

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUR TOUR GUIDE...

- How is your year going?
- Describe a typical day on campus
- What types of students do well here? Who is a good fit?
- What is the school known for? What are the strongest departments?
- What are the most popular majors?
- Are there any new majors or interesting programs?
- Are there opportunities for undergrads to do research?
- What was your favorite class and why?
- What % of your classes are taught by TA's?
- How are your Professors?
- Describe your interaction with/access to faculty
- What's your average class size this year?
- Can freshmen get required classes and electives easily?
- How do you get academic advice? Who is your advisor?
- What other learning support is offered?
- How would you describe the level of pressure and competition?
- How hard do you work? How many hours do you spend each day studying?
- What are the opportunities for study abroad? Is it popular?
- What are the opportunities for undergrad research/internships?
- How do freshman meet people/form community when they arrive on campus?
- Where are your friends from, what do they study, what activities do they do?
- Describe freshman orientation
- Where do most freshmen live? Upperclassmen?
- How are the dorms?
- How is the food?
- How long does it take to walk between classes? Across campus?
- Where do students hang out on campus?
- What are the most popular clubs and organizations on campus?
- What % of students are in the Greek system? Does it dominate the social life here?
- What % of students are involved in athletics?
- What % of students are involved in music, theater and art?
- What are the opportunities for service on campus and in the community?
- Is there school spirit? Do students attend sporting events?
- Describe the cultural, educational and entertainment events on campus
- Describe the opportunities for religious observance
- Describe the opportunities for working on campus
- What do students do on the weekends? On campus? Off campus?
- What did you do last weekend?
- Does the school have any unique traditions?
- What issues are students discussing on campus?
- Is the student community tolerant?

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUR TOUR GUIDE (CONT'D)...

- What do you like best about your school?
- What would you change about your school? What do you wish were different here?
- What do most people not know this college is really good at?
- What makes this school DIFFERENT from other schools?
- How has this school shaped or changed you?
- Why did you choose XYZ College?
- What has not been asked today that you think is important for everyone to know?

## RECORD YOUR IMPRESSIONS...

- Is it a good fit: Yes, No, Maybe.
- Is it the right size?
- Rate the campus on a scale of 1-10
- Rate the location on a scale of 1-10
- Strong in your major?
- Offers activities that interest you?
- Do the students seem happy and enthusiastic?
- Describe the students:
  - Intellectual
  - Athletic
  - Artsy
  - Down-to-earth
  - Preppy
  - Nerdy
  - Hipster
  - Smart
  - Sophisticated
  - Big partier
  - Involved
  - Fun
  - Outdoorsy
  - Laid back
  - Tolerant
  - Traditional
  - Alternative
  - Formal
  - Career-oriented
  - Balanced
  - Compassionate
  - Diverse
  - Stylish
  - Open-minded
  - Unconventional
  - Cultured
  - Scholarly
  - Creative
  - Friendly
  - Ambitious
  - Activist
  - Collaborative
  - Competitive
  - Highly social
  - All
  - Other
- Can you see yourself on campus?
- What would you be doing on campus?
- Describe the vibe: Intense, Relaxed, Formal, Professional, Fun Traditional, Political, Intellectual, Serious, Rah Rah, Party, Other
- Describe the political environment: Conservative, Moderate, Progressive, Liberal, Mixed?
- What did you like best?
- What did you not like?
- What was missing?

# CBM Campus Visit Guide: Specific Programs

## ENGINEERING

- Quality of facilities?
- Is the program hands-on or more theoretical?
- Are you accepted into a specific major as a freshman?
- What are the criteria for admission (SAT/ACT/GPA)?
- Are coops available?

## BUSINESS

- Is the program direct admit or do you apply after freshman/sophomore year?
- What are the criteria for admission (SAT/ACT/GPA)?
- If direct admit, if you are not accepted into Business, are you considered for admission by the university or denied completely?
- Is it possible to transfer into Business if you were not accepted initially? What are the criteria?

## PRE-MED

- What are the undergraduate research opportunities?
- What sort of pre-med advising is there? When does it start? What is the student to advisor ratio?
- What is the acceptance rate for American medical schools?
- Do many pre-med students study abroad?
- Is there a hospital nearby for internships, etc.? Does the school have a relationship with the hospital?
- How do you help students get internships?
- What is the weed-out class? How difficult is Gen Chem? How is it taught? Is there TA support?
- Is the environment collaborative or competitive?

## ART/DESIGN

- Tour the facilities
- What are the portfolio requirements?
- Can you meet with a faculty member to show examples of work?
- Are there summer portfolio prep or other pre-college programs available with art faculty?

## THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS

- BFA or BA?
- Is an audition required?
- How many theaters are on campus?
- How many productions are put on each year?
- What are the opportunities for underclassmen? Can underclassmen be cast?
- What are the opportunities for non-majors?
- Take a lesson with faculty

## FILM

- Who owns the films that students produce?
- What sort of networking opportunities are there?
- What supplies are included in the tuition?
- Who pays for student produced films? What is an average budget?
- What are the backgrounds of the film professors?
- Is the program direct admit? Can you transfer in later?
- What are you looking for in the applicant portfolios?

## ATHLETICS

- Contact coaches to schedule time to meet
- If recruited athlete, completely different calendar and process and varies D1 vs. D3
- Academic support for athletes?
- Check out facilities (location from main campus, indoor versus outdoor)
- Where is stadium? How easy is it to get tickets?

## LEARNING SERVICES

- Meet with Office of Disability Services
- What is the process for applying? Is there an alternate route?
- How do you access services once on campus?
- Are there peer tutors or professional tutors?
- What level and frequency of support is available?
- Is there an extra fee?