

Making the Most of Your Transfer College Visit

Southwestern Illinois College Counseling Center



The transfer college visit is one of the best ways to decide to which schools you should apply. Visit the campus when classes are in session and speak with staff, students, and professors. Use this list of sample questions to identify which are most important to you. Be sure to research the college's web site and speak with your SWIC counselor before you visit—you may find answers to many of your questions. Good luck!

1. Speak with as many students as you can. Depending who you ask, you'll hear a wide range of views about the college. Read the student newspaper, listen to the college radio station, and scan bulletin boards to learn about day-to-day student life.

- How would you rate the academic classes and learning, faculty, and student services?
- Where do you go to study?
- Are professors accessible outside of class?
- Were you able to register for all the classes you wanted?
- Are campus jobs available?
- How would you rate the student services?
- What is the social life like at this school?
- What extracurricular activities/clubs are available?
- What do students do on weekends?
- What is the surrounding community like?
- If you were to do it again, would you choose this college?

2. Meet with a transfer admissions representative. Gather application and scholarship materials.

- What are the advantages/disadvantages of transferring with a transfer degree (AA/AS) versus just transfer coursework?
- What is the transfer application process and when are the deadlines?
- What are your admissions requirements for transfer students? What about GPA?
- What grade do I have to earn in a course for it to transfer? Will a "D" transfer?
- How do you determine my grade if I repeat a course?
- Will my GPA at my previous school transfer, or will I start a new one?
- How will I know how many credits transferred and how the credits fit into a major? What is the maximum number of credits I can transfer?
- What is your average class size?
- Are courses taught by full-time faculty or by graduate assistants?
- Describe the college's resources for computers, library, access to special equipment, such as in labs, etc...
- Is the college and my program accredited? By whom?
- How do I compare to your average student?
- How many students (undergraduate and graduate) attend the college?
- What is the cost of tuition, fees, and expenses? Are transfer scholarships available? If so, what are the requirements?
- Are there academic/talent/minority scholarships available? How do I apply?

3. Speak with a financial aid representative. Pick up financial aid and scholarship application forms.

- What percentages of students receive financial aid and what does the typical package provide?
- What are the application deadlines?
- What kind of work study options do you offer?

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4. **Attend a course and speak with a professor in your major(s).**

Remember, one course will only give you a glimpse of the faculty and classroom atmosphere.

- Do students appear to be interested in the material, and do they participate?
- Do students seem to have a relationship with the professor?
- Would I feel comfortable as a student in this setting?
- Is the material challenging enough for me?
- After acceptance of my transfer credit, what courses will I need to complete?
- Will I have an advisor to assist me?
- Are certain courses required or recommended prior to transferring?
- What support services/programs do you offer?
- Are courses offered at a variety of times through online, telecourses, or other learning options?
- Do you offer internships, study abroad, service learning, honors programs, etc.?
- What percentage of your students graduate and in how many years? How many find employment, attend graduate school, or join a service project? Can I speak with alumni?

5. **Attend a student organization meeting that interests you and speak with a member.** Colleges have student organizations for almost any interest, or you can form new organizations. Plus, student organizations provide opportunities for you to meet other students and ease your college transition.

6. **Attend an activity, athletic event, or other extracurricular event.** Surprise—you will not spend all of your waking hours studying! You will find that college offers excellent extracurricular learning opportunities, too. If you are planning to participate in sports, speak with the coaches.

7. **Take a tour.** Tours offer you a general overview of the campus and its history. Go inside the buildings and libraries. Sit in classrooms and eat in the cafeteria. Ask students about living accommodations.

- Are the buildings on campus in good shape? Are the grounds attractive?
- Will I feel comfortable here?
- What type of security does the campus offer?

8. **Check out the facilities you are likely to use.** You may not need them now, but you may later.

- What are the resources the library can provide? Speak with a librarian about your major.
- Does the college provide career and internship services? Visit the career center and learn what resources you can access?
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center about internships and career resources.
- Are facilities, such as the gym, student center, music practice rooms, etc. in good shape?
- Are the computers and lab equipment plentiful and new?
- Are common areas comfortable and do the facilities meet demand?
- Does the college provide resources for study abroad, community service, or other areas of interest?

9. **Check out your living options.**

- Is the campus close enough to (or far enough away from) the city/home/family for me?
- Are there places to eat while on campus?
- What housing options are available to me? (On campus, off campus, residence halls, Greek housing, etc.) Ask about location, prices, safety, etc.
- What are the transportation options? What about parking on campus?

10. **Explore the community around campus.** Notice the shops and services, public transportation, medical facilities, and entertainment. Is this a community where you will feel comfortable, safe, and happy?