

Tips for the IHA Spring College Fair

WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

You must park in the parking lot near the gym and the multi-purpose room. The lot closer to the cafeteria is reserved for the college representatives. Doors to the fair will not open until 7 p.m., so please do not arrive much before this time. You will be given a map of the schools that have RSVPed and where they will be located in the gym. Please do not park on Van Emburgh Avenue, as you will be towed!

SAVE TIME WITH MAILING ADDRESS LABELS:

Students will be invited to join the mailing lists at the colleges and universities in which they are interested. Before attending the fair, put your pertinent information on a mailing label and adhere it to the cards you'll find at the fair. *Look over the card to see if there is any specific information your pre-completed information doesn't cover!*

Pertinent information should include: your name, mailing address, email address, high school name, high school city and state, year of graduation, intended major, and athletic interest/other interests.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ASKING THE COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES:

What sets your _____ department apart from those at other colleges?

Many students will ask if particular programs - majors or minors - are offered at that college which can leave students looking unprepared. If you are uncertain, ask for a list of majors in their materials instead. If you find the program you're looking for, resist the urge to ask if the program is a strong one. Of course the admission counselor or alum thinks all of the programs are strong—they are invested in the school! Asking the question in a more particular way will give you more information about research opportunities and student/faculty interaction.

What does your Admission Committee value most in the application process?

Instead of asking about ever-changing average test scores and grade point averages that you can research elsewhere, inquiring about the application process will provide solid insight into the philosophy of the school and its community. You'll better understand what types of students they are looking for and thus, if the school is a good fit for you or not.

I am interested in _____ major. Please tell me about the Coop/Intern/Job Placement options you have. What is the percentage of graduates getting a job?

The point (for most of you) in going to college is to be prepared for the real world and to gain employment. Having a degree in business is useless unless you are able to get practical experience in college. Colleges (and sometimes departments themselves) have their own Career Center, which will help students find internships/coops prior to their graduation.

What are your favorite campus traditions? What is your favorite memory (if they are an alum)?

The admission counselor and/or the alumni representative have spent a significant amount of time on campus. Their insights will be more valuable and personal than a college view book can be—take advantage!

What are students interested in on campus? Sports? The arts? Current Events?

Get a feel for the social, political, and/or religious climate on campus by asking about what is important to current students. If the representative isn't certain, ask if you can find the student newspaper online.

TIPS FOR ATTENDING OUR COLLEGE FAIR:

1. Have a Plan

With so many schools in attendance, it would be impossible to speak with every representative. Look at the list of college attendees and mark the schools from which you would like to get more information. Visit those tables first before stopping by schools with which you are not as familiar.

2. Speak to the Reps

When you stop by a college's table, introduce yourself to the admission counselor. Be proactive about starting the conversation and remember that admission counselors want to speak directly with you, **the student**.

3. Remember You are Not Alone

Be courteous of those around you. There are many college representatives, prospective students, and family members. If you are at a college table, don't exclude the other prospective students or parents who would also like valuable information about the school. Our College Fair is a great place to gather information, **but it is not an avenue for addressing your personal admission candidacy**.

4. Wear Your IHA Gear

You do not have to be in uniform, but you may want to wear something that shows your IHA pride.

4. Grab a Business Card

The admissions counselor you meet at our College Fair may one day interview you on campus or read your application should you decide to apply! It never hurts to have a contact in the admission office who you can later email or call with more specific questions.

5. Bring the Mailing Labels and Several Pens

If you do not have mailing labels, you will need to add your information to inquiry cards with a pen—do not assume that every college will have one. Write **LEGIBLY** on each card and fill it in completely. Bring a bag as well, you will be picking up a lot of printed materials and may not want to carry them all night.

6. Arrive on Time to Have Enough Time

The fair begins at 7 p.m. and will end promptly at 9 p.m.

7. Cell Phones

It's a good idea to put the cell phone away while you are at the fair. It creates a bad impression if your cell phone is stuck in your hand as a college rep is attempting to talk to you.

8. Think Outside the Box

Make sure to stop by those schools you may not be familiar with to gather information. Many times it is the school that you do NOT know that may be the best fit for you.