



BEFORE COLLEGE FAIR CHECKLIST

Before attending a college fair, it's important to plan ahead.
Follow these steps to make the most of these events.

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- ▶ Understand the purpose of the college fair**
- College fairs allow students to interact with admission representatives from a range of postsecondary institutions to discuss course offerings, admission and financial aid requirements, college life, and other information pertinent to the college selection process. Entrance to these events is free to students and parents.
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- ▶ Know what to expect**
- College fairs are usually held in large convention center rooms. Hundreds of colleges and universities have tables set up with information about their school and 1 or 2 representatives to answer your questions. Bags are handed out at the fair entrance. Use these bags to collect the materials from the colleges you are interested in. Many fairs setup a Counseling Center in the middle or back of the hall. High school and college counselors can be found here to answer questions you might have.
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- ▶ Make a “plan of action”**
- It's very important to be prepared before entering the college fair. It's not unusual for thousands of students and parents to attend these events which can make for crowded halls and long lines at the more popular college booths.
- Tips to remember:**
- Find out which colleges will attend before you go to the fair.
 - Make a list of the schools you plan to visit.
 - Use Sallie Mae's College Fair Checklist to help you prepare questions to ask each school.
 - Prepare self-stick labels with your name, address, email, phone, high school, year of graduation, intended major(s), and extracurricular activities. You will be asked to fill out interest cards at the booths; using these stickers will save you from writing the same information over and over.
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- ▶ Plan to attend sessions**
- Most fairs have sessions on a variety of college topics, including the search process, admission applications, financial aid, scholarships, and other issues usually presented by experts in the field. These sessions are a great place to ask questions about the college admission process and learn all the things you need to know.