

Career & College Fairs

How to Prepare to Get the Most Out of a Career or College Fair

Why Should I Go To Career & College Fairs?

Career and college fairs are an excellent opportunity to gather lots of valuable information about options for life after high school. You will be able to interact with representatives from many different colleges and training options as well as people from all sorts of interesting professions.

What is the best part?

"One-stop shopping" to interact with people about many different types of career and college opportunities.

These fairs are valuable for both exploratory students as well as students who know what they want to pursue. If you have decided upon a career or educational plan, these fairs can help you get answers to your questions and get you started in the right direction. If you are undecided about your next steps, these fairs are an opportunity to open up the world of possibility. See what sparks your interest. Maybe you will discover something you never thought about before.

How to Make the Most Out of Career & College Fairs?

- Remember, these events are usually offered once a year. So, focus on taking advantage of this opportunity. Too often, students get caught up in the social aspect of being out of school with friends and they miss out on all the resources and people they could connect with. Let your friends know that you have an agenda to make the most out of this event.
- If you have the opportunity, take a look at the list of schools or careers that are in attendance so you can prioritize who you want to talk to. If you don't have access to a list, start with a quick walk through the event center so you can get a picture of where you want to focus your attention.
- Come prepared with a few questions to ask colleges and career representatives (see next page). Be prepared to take brief notes.
- Collect business cards and brochures so you can review information at home and contact people again for more information.
- Usually, you will only be able to ask a few questions at each booth, so make sure you follow up with people for more information. These events can be busy so this is a great way to make a connection for a follow-up meeting, email or phone call.
- Bring something to carry everything in - you will get lots of fun swag and materials.



Career & College Fairs

How to Prepare to Get the Most Out of a Career or College Fair

Possible Questions for Career Representatives

- What do you enjoy most and least about this field?
- What is a typical day at work look like in this field?
- How can someone get started in this field?
- What skills or personal attributes are needed to be successful in this field?
- What education, training or certifications do I need for this field?
- What advice do you have for someone starting out in this field?
- What high school classes would be valuable for this field?
- What options are there for career advancement in this field?
- What can someone in this field expect in terms of wages? (Do not directly ask about their income)
- What else would be important for me to think about in regards to this career?
- Do you know of any job shadow or internship opportunities in this field?
- Who else would you suggest I connect with to learn more about this field?

Possible Questions for College or Training Representatives

- I am interested in... (major or career field), does your school have a program in this area?
- Can you tell me about your program for... (major or career field)?
- What would be important to know about your admissions process? What do you look for in a successful applicant? Test scores? Extracurricular activities?
- How selective is admissions into the college or program? What percent of applicants are accepted?
- I am interested in... (extracurricular activity or sport), do you offer activities related to that interest?
- What is campus life like? What are the dorms like?
- What do students typically do on weekends?
- What types of supports do you have for student success or students with disabilities?
- What is the coolest thing about the town or city?
- What is your school known for? What types of students typically choose your school?
- Are there internships, clinicals, or other opportunities to get real world experience?
- What financial aid and scholarship opportunities are available for your students?
- Can I do a campus visit or talk to someone in my area of interest to learn more about the program?
- What are your typical class sizes?
- What else would be important to know about your school or program?

