



## Play Collegiate Golf

"creating academic and athletic success"

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### ***Readying for an On-campus Visit with a Golf Coach***

*How to Prepare Yourself for the Initial Visit to a College of Your Interest*

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Getting on campus for either official visits (paid for by the institution and limited to five during the senior year in high school) or unofficial visits (paid for by the family and no limit) is an integral part of the recruiting process. Making an informed decision as to what will constitute the “perfect” college experience is the goal of these visits. Remember, the college experience is defined differently by each individual so figure out what it means to you! Keep in mind, though, that the college experience will encompass three broad categories: academic; athletic; and personal development. Use these categories to provide direction in your definition of the “perfect” college. This will help you narrow down the things most important for your college experience and may well indicate things that you can live without.

When on campus, the following offices are important for you to talk with during your visit. They will help you get the best feel for the academic, athletic, and social opportunities that will create your experience. Add your own questions that are unique to your specific school, golf, and personal goals as well to those listed under each bolded heading. Most offices on campus expect drop-in traffic and the Admissions Office will have daily campus tours in which you can participate. Check prior to your on-campus visit because they might require advanced registration to ensure enough people are available for a tour. Additionally, these tours are usually given by a current student which will offer you plenty of opportunities to get a personal perspective of the campus.

#### ***Admissions***

What types of things can I do to enhance my application over the next few years (Service Learning? Internships? Clubs?)

What is your current acceptance rate?

What are your strongest academic majors or majors that draw interest from the most students?

#### ***Financial Aid***

What types of academic scholarships are available for incoming students?

What can I do between now and when I apply to improve my chances for an academic scholarship?

Are there specific dates that I need to be aware of for academic scholarships prior to the freshman year?

#### ***New Student Programs***

What does Freshman Orientation involve?

How does your office support first year students?

Does this institution have a First Year Experience program and what does it constitute?

- Learning Communities?
- Living/Learning Communities?
- Freshman Seminar (or University 101)?
- Freshman Interest Groups?

#### ***Residence Life***

Ask for a tour of some different living options (there should be model rooms available in each residence hall).

Ask what type of academic and social programming occurs within the halls.

Ask what the resident to Resident Assistant ratio is (35:1 is typical).

Ask what the cost of living on campus covers (Cable? Water? Heat? Electricity? Laundry?).

As you prepare for meeting a coach on his or her campus, take the time to think about what kind of questions you want to ask so as to best ascertain the correct information for you. When planning a campus visit, make sure you meet with the head coach or an assistant coach - plan ahead and schedule a time to meet for about 45 minutes or so. Try and meet with some of the team members as well if at all possible. If this is something important to you then make sure you ask the coach during your initial discussions about it *before* you get on campus so s/he can round up the players as they will all have different schedules to organize. Meeting team members is important because you will be spending a lot of time with these individuals and need to know if the fit is right for you. However, the most important meeting is with the coach so make sure you get answers to the following questions as it will help shape your decision about the program and if it is a “best fit” environment for you and your game.

- How do you recruit players (specific tournaments? scores?); How many freshmen do you typically recruit?
- What is a typical freshmen athletic scholarship level (dollar amount or percentage)?
- How do you interact with players during practice, at a tournament, and outside of the golf environment?
- What can I do this summer to best prepare myself for college golf at this level?

During the meeting with the golf coach be prepared to answer some specific questions from the coach as s/he will want to gauge your interest in the institution and the program. Review the following list of questions as they will help prepare you for on-campus visits with college golf coaches. As a suggestion, you may want to write out answers for each question in preparing to discuss your college golf future with a coach at an institution at which you may want to be a member of the golf team. Ask friends playing college golf if they have additional questions to add to this list!

- What are your long-term goals for both golf and academics?
- Why are you interested in our university and golf program?
- What are your scholarship needs? What are your current grades like?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses in your golf game?
- What things do you most value in a college setting? What things do you least value in a college setting?
- What different junior tours and events do you play?
- Have you written the SAT/ACT and registered for the NCAA Clearinghouse?
- Do you participate in a strength and conditioning program?
- What does “team” mean to you?

Remember, ask the right questions for *you* so that an informed decision about your future academic, athletic, and personal development at the college level can be made more easily. Happy holidays and all the best in 2010 in the classroom and on the golf course!

Good luck

*Dr. Fleming*

*Dr. Bruce Fleming is the founder of Play Collegiate Golf, created to mentor young women and men interested in continuing their competitive golf careers at institutions that support their academic, athletic, and personal goals.*

*For more information please visit [playcollegiategolf.com](http://playcollegiategolf.com)*