

Elizabeth Public Schools:
SUMMER SOAR PROGRAM

Demonstrated
Interest/ Preparing for
College Fairs and
College Visits



WHAT IS DEMONSTRATED INTEREST?

Demonstrated interest is something that many colleges and universities use to track how much you (prospective student) like their school and, more importantly how likely you are to enroll if the school admits you.



Student's Interest in Attending (Demonstrated Interest)

Engage Online

Open emails and spend time on the college website. Many colleges keep record of these interactions.

Apply Early

Consider early decision or early action applications— they ultimate form of demonstrated interest.



Visit Campuses

Make sure your visit is documented/recorded by admissions— otherwise, it won't be part of your application.

Meet Representatives

Attend college fairs, school visits, and speak /email with your regional admissions rep. They don't bite!

Inform Admissions About "Unofficial Interest"

If you've done a lot of independent research on a college, talked with alums from your high school (or family/friends) who attend— be sure to let them know via email or your essays!

Love Your Likelies

Many highly rejective schools don't use demonstrated interest as part of their process, so **be sure to show interest to all schools on your list** (not just your top choices)!

HOW IMPORTANT IS DEMONSTRATED INTEREST?

PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school GPA in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school GPA (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8

MORE WAYS TO SHOW DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

- Interaction and inquiry card submission (or scan) at college fairs. (Scan strive)
- Campus visit during junior year or summer after junior year
- Early application
- Supplemental essay: showing your particular interest in that college and how you have researched that school specifically
- Speaking with alumni or students who may share information with admission office
- Campus info session/tour in fall of senior year
- Interview with admission rep/alum
- Second visit to campus in senior year
- Overnight program (Such as Upward Bound)
- Contacting admission rep
- Meeting with faculty on campus or by phone
- Answering the questionnaire on your SAT's (42 questions) In fact some colleges pay for that information!



THINGS TO CONSIDER

- It can be a lesser factor among some colleges and universities
- It may be more important at institutions where student capacity is more limited or for areas of study with enrollment caps.
- Interest is just part of a larger group of factors considered when applying to college.
 - Other important factors
 - ACT/SAT scores
 - GPA
 - Recommendation Letters
 - Extracurricular activities and involvement
 - Volunteerism
 - College essay

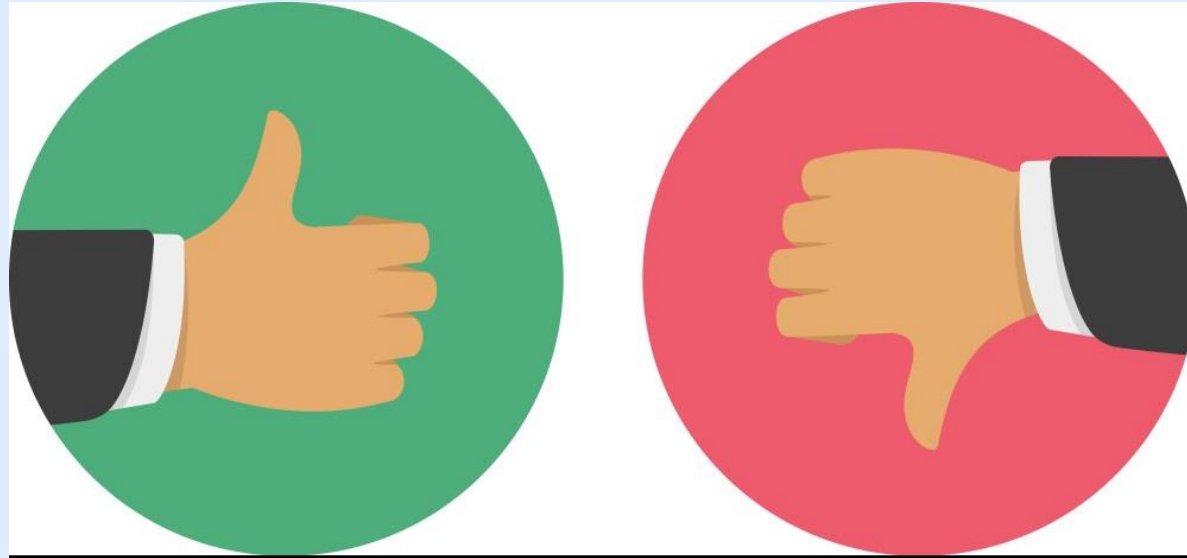
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Getting the most out of college fairs



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF COLLEGE FAIRS:

Do's and Don't



COLLEGE FAIRS

DO ASK QUESTIONS

- Generating questions before attending a fair is key. A first strong impression can have a huge impact.
- Make sure to ask thoughtful questions, so that the college representatives know that you are interested.
- Try to avoid questions like, "where are you located"



COLLEGE FAIRS

DO NOT WEAR RIPPED JEANS!

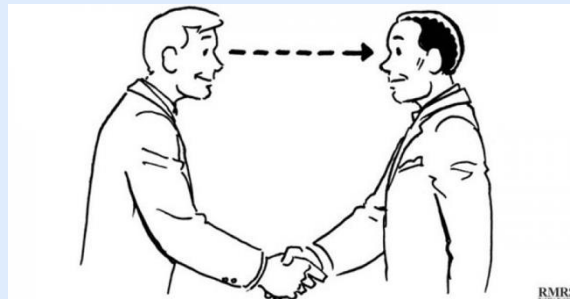
- Come dressed to impress.
- As mentioned before, first impressions count.
- Try to avoid hoodies, ripped jeans, and crocs.



COLLEGE FAIRS

DO MAKE EYE CONTACT

- Making eye contact shows that you are confident and ready for the next big step in your life, college/university!
- Making eye contact can generate interest. College representatives are looking for students that want to attend their schools.
- Overall eye contact is respectful, and part of being an adult.



COLLEGE FAIRS

DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF

- Widen your net, when attending a college fair. You never know who you will impress or what college/university may interest you.
- Having realistic expectations are great, but why not talk to that ivy league representative? Worst case scenario, you can make a connection and garner real life experience.



A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT COLLEGE FAIRS: 5 TIPS!



PLANNING YOUR COLLEGE VISIT

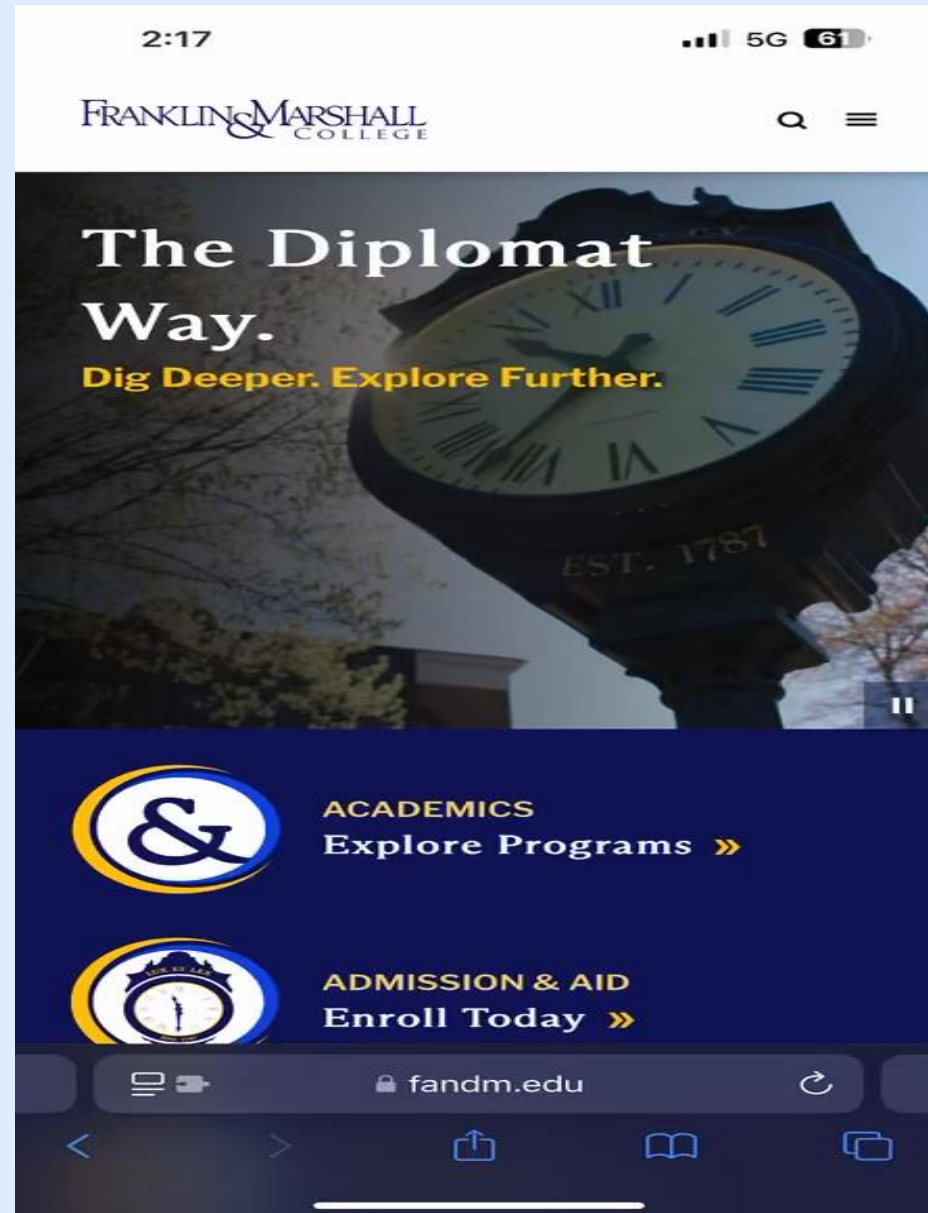
- <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/campus-visit-checklist.pdf>
- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/applying/slideshows/types-of-college-campus-visits>

TYPES OF COLLEGE VISITS

- Walking tours
- Virtual Tours
- Self-Guided Tours
- Golf Cart Tours
- Foreign Language Tours
- Overnight Visits
- Group Tours
- Open Houses



SIGNING UP FOR A CAMPUS VISIT (EXAMPLE)



AND OVERALL...



ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!

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Thank you!

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