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## Tips on Getting Into First-Choice School



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By *The Associated Press*

Advice from college admissions experts on how to demonstrate interest in the regular admissions round, without going overboard and becoming a pest:

\_ After a campus visit, make sure the admissions office knows you were there, perhaps by following up with a phone call. Also, make sure the school knows if you attended an event at your high school or a college fair near your home. "I always tell my kids, if you're at all interested, make sure you meet with the college rep, get their card, follow up with an e-mail," said Toby Waldorf, an independent admissions counselor in Los Angeles.

\_ If a campus visit isn't possible, make sure you tell the college why, said Gail Sweezey, director of admissions at Gettysburg College. There are other ways to get on a school's radar screen. "I suggest that they write to the admissions office and be in touch with an alum in their area," said Mona Olds, an independent counselor in Greensboro, N.C.

\_ Don't pester admissions officers with questions that can be answered from the college's Web site, said independent counselor Paula Barksdale, of Manhattan Beach, Calif. "Ask things that aren't on the Web, like 'What's the graduation rate in my sport?' Or people who want to act: 'Are your productions only open to people in the drama department? What are my chances of getting into your improv group?'"

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