

# Seton Hall Preparatory School- The College Interview

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*By Benjamin Laster, Director of College Placement*

**Wear Proper Attire:** The proper dress for a college interview is a suit. If you are serious about the school you are interviewing with, you want your attire to reflect it. Dress shoes should be worn as well as dress socks (no white socks).

**Get Adequate Sleep:** Make sure to get sufficient sleep the night before so you are fresh for your meeting on campus.

**Do Your Research:** Take time to read the school website thoroughly. Research about the school, the type of student it is looking for as well as your intended major. You want to demonstrate to the interviewer that you are deeply interested in the college.

**Be Punctual:** Arrive at the interview location at least 15 minutes early. You may have to fill out paperwork. In addition, you can get into the schools communication cycle and ensure that you are receiving credit for your visit (if the school tracks it). By being in the schools system you will be sent important email updates on your application as well as future events on campus.

**Greet The Interviewer:** Shake the hand of your interviewer when you meet him or her and make solid eye contact.

**Articulate Your Experiences:** Be yourself. The interviewer is trying to find out about you and if you are a strong fit for the college. Feel free to explain your accomplishments in great detail. Let the interviewer know what you are looking for in your college experience and why you are drawn to the college. Show enthusiasm and excitement at the prospect of attending the college.

**Ask Questions:** Prepare a list of 3-5 detailed questions for your interviewer to ask at the end of the meeting. If the questions are answered during your discussion, you do not need to ask them again. Ask probing questions, not obvious ones.

**Thank The Interviewer:** Thank the interviewer for their time at the end of the meeting and shake their hand. Remember to make solid eye contact.

**Follow Up:** Send either a handwritten note or thank you email to the interviewer. Thank them for their time and ask if they have any other suggestions for ways you could strengthen your application in the future. Sending a thank you note/email should be the protocol for any meeting that you have on campus whether it be with admissions, the head of a faculty department, coach, or a student tour guide.

**Demonstrate Good Posture:** Sit upright during your meeting. You want to be actively engaged in the conversation, which body language such as good posture demonstrates.

**Materials:** Bring a copy of your transcript as well as an activity sheet or resume to your interview. Offer these materials at the beginning of the conversation. In addition, if you have a portfolio, or any other materials/accomplishments you would like to present, you should do so at the beginning of the conversation.

**Appropriateness:** Keep the tone of the interview positive. Do not speak negatively about teachers, peers etc. during the discussion. Colleges are seeking students who will be solid

peers, students, roommates etc. Never use any language that could be construed as inappropriate.