

## College Conversations 2021



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Will there be more colleges attending? Will a particular college be attending?**

**A:** The current list of colleges who have confirmed is included in your event overview packet as well as on the website and app. While additions could still occur, we do not expect any additions.

*Have a suggestion for a college you'd like to see at this event in the spring? Add it to the "Event Feedback" conversation in the Community tab of your app! If they meet the criteria of our invited schools, we'll add them to our list for outreach!*

**Q: Why can't underclassmen attend the College Fair & Scholarship Showcase or the College Convos breakouts after panels?**

**A:** We hear you. *Everyone* wants to meet with the reps. On Tuesday, the Dual Enrollment panelists are open to talking to **all** grade levels in their College Convos rooms following the "Alternate Paths..." Panel. Underclassmen will see these listed on their Tuesday agendas. In the fall though, it's most important for seniors to have the opportunity to talk directly to the reps at all of the other times this week as they are actively finalizing their college lists and deciding which colleges and scholarships to apply to and when. It's also important to us that the reps have a manageable group of students waiting to speak with them during these times for seniors. Fear not though! We hope to revisit this event in the early spring and tailor it just to underclassmen. If you're interested in that, be sure to leave us some feedback about how you'd like that event to look!

*p.s.* We know that some underclassmen attending this event have all the access that seniors do. Those individuals were OSSE Scholars and spent all summer engaged in rigorous college preparation. They are uniquely prepared to engage in conversations with college reps as juniors. **If you're not familiar with OSSE Scholars, check out [the website](#)! Our Summer 2022 application opens during College Convos, on Sept. 15!**

**Q: Can I change one or more of the panels I want to attend during the week?**

**A:** Sure. It's your agenda and your College Conversations experience. As long as it is available to you on your agenda, you can change your mind or hop between available sessions, before or even during the sessions.

**Q: My mom wants to come with me. Is that okay?**

**A:** On Wednesday *only*, yes! The financial aid sessions are open to all grade levels and we encourage parents and families to peep the info over your shoulder. The capacity on our Zoom links is limited to 300 so they will have to view with you. For the rest of this event though, the invitation is just for **you**, the eligible student. There are two reasons for this:

- 1) The Whova event platform is awesome but we still have to use Zoom for the panels and sessions. We want to maximize the number of eligible students who can take part.
- 2) The colleges want to meet and talk with **you**. They are not interested in talking with dad, grandma or your best friend at this event. These important individuals in your life can accompany you to traditional college fairs or visiting college campuses but College Conversations is an intentionally exclusive event.

**Q: Is there any specific clothing that we must wear?**

**A:** There is no required dress code. However, you should consider these conversations with college, financial aid, and scholarship organizations like interviews with an admissions committee! Represent yourself in the best possible way. You don't need to wear a suit, get your hair cut, or put on your best lashes and a full face just for this event. We suggest business casual (your school uniform is great. *Really!*) but you should avoid tank tops, too much exposed skin or clothing with inappropriate words or logos -- anything that your school dress code prohibits. And remember, it's up to you whether you turn your camera on or not, but we know the reps would like to see you when asking a question!

**Q: Why aren't there any reps to talk to in the Exhibitor Showcase?**

**A:** The Exhibitor Showcase is open all week and any student is welcome to visit any of the booths at any time for most of the week. However, the live Zoom links in each booth are *only* open to seniors during the College Fair & Scholarship Showcase on Friday, from 5-6:30 p.m.

**Q: I can't attend on a certain night or I want to be in both panels on a night but can't decide, will they be recorded?**

**A:** Yes! All ten of the panel discussions will be recorded and made available to all participants, regardless of grade level. However, none of the College Convos rooms or College Fair & Scholarship Showcase live streams will be recorded – those interactions are supposed to be more personal, smaller group conversations between you and the reps.

**Q: Why are there so many schools I haven't heard of???**

**A:** One of the two purposes of this event is to expose top DC students to schools that are a great match & fit and/or offer generous financial aid to the type of student who is eligible to attend College Conversations. Many times, those are schools that you are not yet familiar with!

Trust us. This is our ninth year running College Convos and we've never once heard from a student that we got it wrong 😊 Part of the appeal of this event is learning about great colleges, with amazing financial aid, that you wouldn't probably know about otherwise.

**Q: Are there any scholarship opportunities at this event?**

**A:** Yes! There are a number of scholarship, college access, and financial aid organizations. There are also colleges with a “scholarship” category tag because they offer a well-known, highly regarded, usually full-tuition or full-ride scholarship. Be sure to use those categories to search and filter the exhibitors to prioritize who you want to visit.

**Q: Should I send you my resume? Are there any materials that I should bring with me to represent myself or that gives more information on who I am? Can I give my transcript to the reps?**

**A:** You should not send any personal documents but you can have them with you in case there is an opportunity to discuss them with a college rep. Remember that you can add some details to your attendee profile in the Whova app (like interests, GPA, AP or IB courses you love, career interests, etc.! Be sure to only share things though that are 1) accurate and 2) you would want anyone to know --- all reps and all fellow attendees can view your profile.

*Please note: **Most college representatives are not allowed to accept your personal documents** at a college fair or an event like this and, honestly, they mostly just want to talk to you and learn about you that way, and help you learn about their institution during your conversations with them.*

**Q: Are there on-site admissions?**

**A:** No. This event is not for on-site admissions. College representatives use this event to meet students that they have not had a chance to meet otherwise. Some reps have used this event to identify memorable students that they may recommend for admission when go back to their campus. If you’ve already met one of these reps at your high school as a junior or through a non-school event, they don’t need (or want) to speak with you again unless you have a new question.

**Q: How long will we be able to talk to each school?**

**A:** Each of the College Convos breakout sessions following panels will last for 30 minutes, during which seniors are permitted to visit and move between the rooms as they wish. Note that the capacity for each College Convo room is small though, and there may be up to 300 students in any panel. You may need to wait to be admitted to a popular room. During that time, visit other colleges! And remember, don’t just sit in one room for the full 30 minutes – that isn’t a good use of your time.

**Q: Do I have to have my camera on?**

**A:** Nope. That is up to you. However, in a small group College Convo with a rep after one of the panels or, for seniors during the College Fair & Scholarship Showcase booths on Friday, we definitely think you should! The reps want to see you, talk to you, and get to know you. None of these sessions will be recorded.

In the panel sessions throughout the week, student cameras and microphones should be disabled when you enter the room. We want the panelists to be featured on screen for that hour, but the panels are also being recorded and could be viewed by anyone after the event.