

Name: Elena
Year: Freshman, Class of 2021

How Many Official Visits Did You Take?

- I took two recruiting trips.

What were the most important features of the college you chose, such as division, conference, coaches, teammates, majors, minors, etc.?

- Going to a division 1 school was very important to me, however keeping your options open can lead you to a school you never thought you'd enjoy. I wanted a team that rallied around each other, personally I am most successful when I am surrounded by teammates who want to be great like me. A family atmosphere was really important in my choosing process. I also looked for a confident and welcoming coach. I liked knowing that the coach had faith in the team but was also concerned for the wellbeing of the swimmers.

What were some important things you learned from your visits?

- Always be comfortable and yourself on the trips. It's easier to find what you're more accommodated to when you're open minded. Doing a little research on the college before your trip will also give you a better idea of what you're about to experience, and it could spark some important questions you may want to ask. Do not be afraid to make friends and talk to the swimmers, even if you don't end up going to the school you'll have some awesome friendships and connections in the swimming world.

How Important Was Academic Major In Your Choice Of School?

- My current major is exercise science, I want to be a physical therapist. However, I like to explore my interests. My major may stick or it could change. It was not major factor in choosing a school.

Did the Size of the School Factor Into Your Decision?

- Yes, I did not want to feel overwhelmed or lost, but I wanted the school to be big enough to be diversified. I wanted to have 25,000+ students. I think it's important to step out of the box and meet all kinds of people.

When Did You Begin Researching College Swim Programs?

- Junior year

What Advice Would You Give To Rising Seniors With Regard To Recruiting?

- This is such an exciting time in a swimmer's life, it's what we all worked so hard for. Have fun with the process and don't be afraid to fall in love with a school. Be aware of what you really enjoy and don't be afraid to ask questions about the team/school.