

Questions to Ask on College Visits

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

1. What makes your university unique?
2. What are your retention rates?
3. What are the principal reasons students leave or transfer out?
4. What are your 4, 5, and 6-year graduation rates?
5. What is the percentage of students who, after graduation, go to work, go to graduate school, do something else? What else are they doing?
6. How important is demonstrated interest/college visit to your admissions process?
7. Do you conduct a holistic review of each application? If so, what are things you take into consideration outside of just the GPA and test scores? What separate applications are required for additional scholarships?
8. Do you recommend an interview?
9. Do you recalculate GPA, and if so, how? Under the recalculated scale, what kinds of GPAs generally get admitted to the college?
10. Do you look at class rank?
11. Would I have been accepted last year?

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

1. What kind of financial assistance does the college offer: need-based, merit-based, or both?
2. What is the average student loan indebtedness of the college's graduates?
3. What types of academic/talent scholarships are available?
4. What will the rate of increase of the tuition will be over the 4 years? Will the the scholarships you offer increase at the same rate?
5. If I receive any outside scholarships (not from the university), does this affect my financial aid package?
6. What kinds of work-study jobs are available?

7. Is study abroad included in costs regardless of where we go? Will my financial aid cover all those costs?
8. Can the college provide an early estimate of what our financial aid award might be?
9. What forms are needed in order to apply?
10. When are financial aid applications due?
11. What costs for a student are taken into account by the financial aid office? Tuition, room, board, transportation? How about additional expenses like books, fees, computers and personal expenses?
12. What is included in the comprehensive fee? For example, do students have to pay extra for computer time or to attend campus events (concerts, plays, films, lectures, athletic events, etc.)?
13. When will we be notified about the amount of assistance we can expect?
14. Does the institution have an appeal process to review special circumstances?
15. Is there a commitment for financial assistance beyond the first year?
16. How and when do we apply for financial assistance after the first year?
17. What if we do not qualify for need-based aid? Are there alternative financing options available?
18. What grants, loans and work study opportunities are offered by the college itself?
Are there any we might be eligible for?
19. Is there a restriction to the length of time that financial assistance will continue?
20. What happens if our family's financial situation changes substantially during the school year?
21. Are there any payment options available (such as monthly or quarterly)?

CAREER CENTER

1. Can you give me examples of how faculty go above and beyond to help students with career advising?
2. What resources are available to undergraduates in terms of a career center, internship opportunities, networking events, etc.? Do separate departments have

their own process or does the university as a whole have a career center that all students have access to?

3. What percentage of your graduates are employed in their field after graduation?
What is your sample size?
4. Where are graduates from your university employed?

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

1. What are your most popular/distinguished programs?
2. Is there a core curriculum? If so, what are the distribution requirements?
3. How many students will be in my first year courses and introductory courses?
4. What is the quality and ranking of the academic programs at the college? What do the reviews say? What do students say?
5. What makes ___ major stand out?
6. What are some interesting/exciting things that students are doing with a major in ___?
7. What can you tell me about the accreditation of your programs?
8. Do undergraduates have access to research with faculty members for their my program? What does that timeline look like for those students?
9. Is there a separate application process to be admitted into the program of my choice? Or, am I automatically admitted into my major of interest when I am admitted into the university?
10. If I decide to switch my major, what does that look like? Is there an application process in order to get into a different program as a current student?
11. What percentage of classes are taught by faculty members and what percentage are taught by TAs?
12. Do students have a full-time faculty advisor, a staff advisor, or both? Are students required to meet with their advisor before signing up for academic classes?
13. To what extent do undergraduates participate in faculty research?
14. Is there an Honors Program? If so, what does it consist of?

15. What does it take to graduate in 4 years?
16. Is it possible to study abroad for a full semester or full year and still graduate in 4 years?
17. How many students study abroad?

ADVANCED DEGREES

1. What is the professional exam pass rate?
2. What graduate schools do alumni pursue?
3. What are your acceptance rates for med school, law school, grad school?

CAMPUS LIFE AND HOUSING

1. What does your school do to make students feel welcome and encourage them to get involved?
2. What kinds of clubs and organizations are available? What social activities are available in the surrounding community?
3. What opportunities are available for leadership experiences?
4. Among extracurricular organizations at the college, which seem to be the most active, the most vital?
5. Please tell me about traditions the school has.
6. How extensive is Greek life on campus?
7. What do students typically do in their down time?
8. What kind of person would be happy on this campus? Unhappy?
9. What are the current issues of concern among the students?
10. Is it an activist or political student body?
11. How active and effective is student government?
12. What are the opportunities for participating in intercollegiate or intramural sports?
13. What type of housing is available to first-year students?
14. How are roommates chosen?

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

1. What academic support services do you have available on campus (tutoring, writing center, etc.)? Is there a fee?
2. Do you have counseling services on campus? Is there a fee?
3. Where are the student services department located?
4. Is there a writing center to help with student essays?
5. Is tutoring available?
6. Do you have a learning community or other freshman experience to aid in the transition to college?

TRANSPORTATION

1. Can I have a car on campus, and how convenient is parking?
2. What does parking cost?
3. How far is the campus from an airport or train station?

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Is there a fitness or recreational center on or near campus?
2. How is the student health program organized?
3. How far away is the nearest fully equipped hospital?
4. What is the campus crime rate?
5. What does campus security consist of?
6. What is the most frequently reported on-campus crime?
7. Have there been any serious incidents of on-campus crime in recent years?

TO ASK CURRENT STUDENTS

1. What do you love most about the school and what is something you'd change?
2. How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
3. Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
4. Do many students go home on weekends?

5. What are the dorms like?
6. Will I be living in a single, double, or triple room?
7. Are the dorms wired for the Internet?
8. Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?
9. Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
10. Is the food good?
11. Are campus jobs readily available?
12. Is there easy access to computers? Where are they located?
13. What's the library like as a place to study or to do research?
14. How easy is it to get the classes you want?
15. To what extent is there interaction between faculty and students?
16. Do you use any of the support services (career center, counseling center, writing center, etc.). Are they helpful?