

Questions to Ask College Representatives

Students and parents should make a list of priorities before meeting with college representatives.

To make a realistic assessment and selection of a college or university, the following factors need to be considered:

- (1) admission requirements, (2) location, (3) public or private, (4) enrollment,
- (5) cost, (6) majors offered, (7) nature of the student body.

Bring a pen or pencil. Many representatives ask you to complete a contact card so they can send you additional information. Bring a notebook, laptop or tablet so you can take notes on details about each school you investigate. Develop your own list of questions to ask college representatives by using the suggested topics below as a guide.

Questions About Admission Policies

1. Is the writing required for SAT or ACT?
2. What range of scores are accepted?
3. Will activities and involvement in school be considered?
4. What weight is placed on the essay?
5. Is there an early decision or early action plan?
6. Are personal interviews or letters of recommendation required?
7. Are there special requirements for certain majors?
8. What percent of applicants are accepted for Early Decision, Early Action, and Regular Admissions?
9. Can admission denials be appealed?
10. What range of GPAs are accepted?

Questions About the College

1. What is the surrounding community like?
2. Is the college public, private, church affiliated?
3. What is the current undergraduate student enrollment?
4. What special or unique programs can you tell me about?
5. Does the college have general education or course distribution requirements?
6. Does the college have special programs for transfer students?

Questions About College Cost

1. What is the cost of tuition? Room and board? Are there other fees?
2. Are accepted students required to make deposits for orientation and/or housing? Are these deposits fully refundable until May 1?
3. Are deposits required each year for returning students?

Questions About Student Population

1. From where do the majority of students come?
2. Do most of the students commute or live on campus?
3. What are the most popular student groups on campus?
4. Are there fraternities and sororities on campus? If so, how active are they?
5. What athletic programs are the strongest on campus?
6. Is the surrounding community supportive of the college?
7. Does the college have a campus visitation overnight program?
8. Is housing available/guaranteed for freshmen? Is it available all four years?

Questions About Academics

1. What is the average class size? Largest? Smallest?
2. How many students in last year's freshman class returned for their sophomore year?
4. What is the college's procedure for student orientation, class placement, and scheduling? Are classes guaranteed?
5. How are academic advisors assigned?
6. What services does the school offer for students undecided about a major?
7. What percentage of students graduate in four years? In five years?
8. What are the most popular majors on campus?
9. Are students taught by full-time professors, graduate assistants, or a combination of the two?
10. What types of additional services are provided at no cost to the student--e.g. tutoring, career and personal counseling, developmental reading and study skills workshops, job placement?
11. Is there an honors program? What are the qualifications for entry? Does it last all four years? Is there separate housing?

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Questions About Social Life

1. What is the average age of the student body?
2. What is the male to female ratio?
3. What percent of students reside on campus?
4. Is this considered a "suitcase campus" where a lot of students leave on weekends?
5. Are the residence halls co-ed? Are there theme dorms (i.e. substance-free residence option)?
6. What are the procedures for selecting a roommate?
7. What are some of the rules and regulations that govern campus and residence hall life?

Questions About Financial Aid

1. What percent of students receive need-based financial aid?
2. What forms do I need to complete to apply for financial aid?
3. What percent of students receive scholarships based on merit?
4. What would a typical freshman financial aid package look like?
5. What percent of those who apply for financial aid receive it?
6. Will financial aid be adjusted if need increases?
7. Is a tuition payment plan available?
8. Are campus jobs available? Are nearby off-campus jobs available?

Questions You May be Asked by a College Representative

You cannot prepare for every question that might be asked in an interview, but you can anticipate a few and have an idea of how you might answer. However, be careful; an overly rehearsed answer will come across as disingenuous and insincere. Be sure to be aware of your current events in case you are asked.

Some of the questions to prepare for include the following:

- What do you think is our most pressing social issue in the United States right now?
- Why do you want to go to this college? What do you know about this college? How did you come to include us among your choices?
- What have you read recently?
- Tell me about your school, your high school experience.
- What activities are you involved in at school, out of school?
- Describe your family, your background.
- What was the last cultural event you attended, or what have you done or seen lately?
- Who and/or what has influenced you the most? Any heroes?
- What are your academic goals, your career goals?
- Are there any significant events or challenges you have had to overcome? What significant accomplishments or rewards have you received? Oh what accomplishment are you most proud?
- Describe your favorite subject/teacher? What makes a good teacher?

*Be sure to have a couple of your own questions about the college prepared in case they ask you if you have any. At the end of your interview, look the interviewer in the eyes, smile, and thank them. Send them a thank you note or email after the interview. Mention something specific you discussed in the interview and reiterate your interest while thanking them for meeting with you.