

THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK ABOUT THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY YOU ARE LOOKING AT

Please read over the following questions to identify what you feel you and/or your parents/guardians would like to ask before you make a life-changing decision.

QUESTIONS ABOUT APPLYING

1. What's the right high school courses/schedule for me?
2. What are you looking for in an applicant?
3. How do I know if your school is best for me? (Consider your interests, strengths, and goals.)
4. Should I take the ACT or SAT, and how high do my test scores need to be? (Most colleges accept scores from either test, and submitting high scores on both tests may give your application a competitive edge. Even if your dream school is test-optional, you may need test scores to be considered for merit-based financial aid or scholarships.)
5. Do I need to take AP Exams? Which ones should I take?
6. Who should I ask to write my letters of recommendation?
7. How do admissions officers view extracurricular activities within an application?
8. What do admissions officers look for in an application essay?
9. Is an interview required, and, if so, what should I expect in the interview?
10. What are some common mistakes on applications that I might make?
11. Will applying early decision or early action give me an advantage?
12. Are there different admissions requirements for different departments or majors?
13. How do I schedule a visit to campus, and what will that visit include?
14. Which events should I attend to learn about campus life?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1. How many students attend classes on campus?
2. What is the freshmen retention rate? (that is how many freshmen return for their sophomore year)
3. What is the graduation rate? (that is how many students actually finish what they start)
4. What percentage of students finish their degree in four years? (many students take five or even six years to finish a program)
5. Is there health services available on campus? If yes, how much is charged for visit? What services are offered? (e.g., testing for flu or strep-throat, medication like antibiotics and inhalers for asthma, mental health counseling (school is stressful))
6. What meal plans does your school offer, and do I have a choice in which one I choose? (e.g., affordability, options of places to use, quality of food)
7. How frequently do crimes occur on your campus? What type of crimes occur? How well are students protected from crimes? How many college police officers are there compared to the number of enrolled students? (When you visit a school, do you see evidence of campus security's presence.)
8. Are freshmen allowed to live off campus?
9. Can a freshman have a car on campus?
10. Does the school provide transportation around campus and off campus?
11. Do most students live in dorms all four years? If not, when do most move off campus? Are there many places to rent near campus?

12. How close are housing/dorms to classes?
13. Does your school offer studying abroad? If yes, how many study abroad programs are offered, and which countries are included in the programs? How much more will it cost me in tuition to study abroad? Will my studies abroad transfer back into my requirements at your school? (Although studying abroad is a great adventure, sometimes you will take classes abroad where all or some really won't benefit you in completing your degree.)
14. Does your school offer Greek life? (Fraternities and sororities are a great way to make friends, stay involved on campus, do community service, and network, which could mean internships and job connections, BUT choose wisely because you do not want to pick one with a negative reputation. And, you should be aware that Greek life requires dues, which can be expensive.)
15. Schools always publish demographics information, such as gender, race, and religion. If you have a particular preference, you won't have to do much research to figure out what school would best suit you.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCES

1. What can I expect to be the total cost? Are extra fees included in tuition? (e.g., parking, technology, printing, meal plans, course fees, laundry) WHEN YOU ARE SERIOUS YOU CAN ASK FOR A TUITION BREAKDOWN.
2. In addition to the FAFSA, does your school require one to complete the College Board's College Scholarship Service (CSS) profile for financial aid and/or scholarships?
3. Do I need to apply for specific scholarships available at your school or will my application/profile automatically identify and apply me to the ones I am eligible for?
4. What does a student's debt really look like for your school?

QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS

1. What unique programs are included in your school's curriculum?
2. Is your school nationally accredited in what I plan to study? (Specific departments or programs can have their own accreditation, which will ensure that your degree This ensures that your degree will be recognized by employers and grad schools; in order to get into graduate or professional school, your undergraduate studies may have to be completed at an accredited institution, no matter how wonderful your GPA and desire are to continue.)
3. Does your school focus more on liberal arts subjects or more technical STEM fields?
4. How much flexibility is offered in course selection for the general education/core requirements? (e.g., How many choices do you have in what humanities and/or science course(s) you take?)
5. What is the format for the majority of the textbooks? (digital, print, digital and print) (Also, before purchasing textbooks through the school's bookstore, you should check out renting and/or purchasing textbooks through <https://www.chegg.com/books>, Amazon, and other companies.)
6. What is the faculty to student ratio?
7. Will all my classes be taught by professors or can I also expect graduate students to be teaching? (You may also want to know if you will mostly encounter full-time professors, who usually have a PhD, or adjunct staff)
8. How many students are typically in each of the classes that are general education requirements?
9. How many students are typically in upper-level classes pertaining to my area of study?

10. What type of academic support services are offered for freshmen? (e.g. tutoring, writing centers)
11. If requested, are all professors available to give individual attention to students? (e.g., office hours)
12. Does your school offer independent study and/or research opportunities?

QUESTIONS ABOUT SOCIAL LIFE/CULTURE

1. What is the school culture like? / How would you characterize the students who come to your school?
2. What do students enjoy most about this college?
3. What do students do for fun? Are the events mostly on campus or off campus? What were some of the biggest or most popular events on campus last year?
4. What are some of the most popular clubs on campus?
5. Are there intramural sports? If yes, what is available?
6. If a club that you would like to participate in is not offered ask if it would be possible for me to start your own student organization? What is that process like?
7. Does the college help provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to do community service?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AREA/TOWN

1. What is the town area around the school like? (e.g., population size)
2. What shopping is available? How close is shopping at large stores like WalMart or Target?
3. What restaurants are close to campus?
4. What is the weather typically like in the seasons?
5. How expensive are things in the area? (e.g., rent, gas, everyday food like milk and bread)
6. Is Uber or a similar service available in the area?

QUESTIONS ABOUT CAREER READINESS

1. What are the undergraduate opportunities for internships, research, and employment?
2. What percentage of students find summer internships and/or jobs before graduating?
3. What do your students do just after graduating?
4. How Do You Support Students After Graduation? (e.g., support for grad school admissions, placement in a specific field, or access to a desired job market)
5. Does your school have an active alumni network? (This can provide opportunities into connections regarding internships, and/or access to employers and career opportunities.)

LAST QUESTION

1. What sets your school apart from other colleges and universities?