

Questions to Ask a College Representative

When you meet a college representative, choose your questions carefully. As soon as possible, write down what you learned. The more information you have, the better decision you will make.

Admission Requirements

- What are the deadlines for applications and financial aid?
- What is the academic profile of the typically admitted student? (ACT/SAT/class rank, GPA)
- How important is the college essay? Recommendation letter? Other parts of the application?
- What tips can you give me for writing the essay?
- How important are extracurricular activities?
- What kind of student is your university looking for?
- When are notifications for acceptance sent?

Affordability

- What is the cost of attendance?
- What types of financial aid are available? What percentage of students receives financial aid?
- What scholarships are available?
- How much debt does the average student graduate with?

Housing

- Must freshmen live in the dorms?
- What are the options? (Coed? Single sex?)
- How many students per room?
- What is the availability of off-campus housing?
- What is the social life in the dorms?

Campus Life

- What kind of clubs and activities are available for me to join?
- Is there a church on campus? Nearby? Denomination?
- What types of fitness centers are available for student use?

Social Life

- What do students do for fun on campus? In the community?
- What entertainment is available on campus? In the community?

Athletics

Does this college offer interscholastic sports?

Campus Environment

- What is the campus like (appearance, size, distance between classes)?
- What is the area surrounding the campus like (availability of cultural activities, shopping)?
- How safe is the campus? What measures have been put into place to ensure student safety?
- If I have an evening class, what type of transportation is available?
- What is the availability of food (cafeteria, on campus, close by)?
- What kinds of transportation are available (to the city or town, within the campus)?

Campus Support

- Do you have an orientation program?
- Do you have a summer bridge program?
- How will my advisor be assigned?
- What support programs (personal and academic counseling) are available?
- Who takes care of students who are sick?
- If I am having difficulty in a class, what type of support is available?
- What computer facilities are available?
- What services are available for students with physical or learning disabilities?
- Is there career planning and placement at graduation?

College Courses

- What type of grading system is used?
- What are the strongest, most unique, and/or alternative academic programs available?
- What is the teacher-to-student ratio?
- How large are the largest freshmen classes?
- Who teaches the freshmen courses?
- What is the accessibility of regular faculty (office hours)?
- What resources or facilities are available to support my major?
- Is it OK to have an undeclared major? Dual major? Change of major?

General Questions

- What percentage of freshmen students return for their sophomore year?
- What is the school's graduation rate?
- Why do students stay? Why do they leave?