

Tough Questions to Ask on Your College Visit

About Academics

1. What academic elements are considered in the admissions process, for example: courses, grades, test scores, rank, interests, institutional needs, essays, recommendations, and interviews? How important are each of these factors?
2. Which academic programs on campus are the most popular?
3. What are the largest classes you could have as a freshman or sophomore? How many large classes can you expect?
4. Who teaches the freshman classes? Teaching Assistants? Graduate Assistants?
5. (If this applies to you) Are there any special support services if you are a special needs student (ADD, ADHD, LD, etc.)? How do these support services function and is there any additional cost charged for these services?
6. Is there an Honor Code? How does it operate?
7. Is there an Honors Program for talented students? How do you qualify?

About Social/Recreational Opportunities

1. What activities do students participate in during their free time both on campus (school sponsored) and in the community?
2. Does the campus have a Greek system of fraternities and sororities? If so, what percent of the student body participates in Greek life? Are parties open? How do students who elect not to participate in the Greek system fit in?
3. What are the most popular extracurricular activities?
4. Where is the central gathering place for students?
5. What portion of the student body lives on campus? What portion of the student body remains on campus for the weekends?
6. What transportation options are available to and from campus both for trips to the mall and for treks to transportation centers for trips home?
7. Can freshmen have cars on campus? What is the fee for having a car on campus?
8. Is it easy to get around campus? Can you walk to and from classes?

About Auxiliary Services

1. Where do students go if they have a medical emergency?
2. What tutoring, counseling, and support services are available on campus and how are they accessed?
3. What computer access will you have? Do you need to bring your own computer?
4. Are the dorms wired for Internet/email services?
5. What laundry facilities are available?
6. What are the safety issues on campus? How are they addressed? Ask for a crime report. Federal law requires schools to provide safety information to students.
7. Are there on-going construction projects around campus? (This is a good thing as it signals good facilities.)

About Housing/Food Services

1. Is campus housing guaranteed for all four years? What percent of students live on campus all four years?
2. What housing options exist? (Honors? Themed? Single sex? Co-ed? Greek?)
3. What meal plans are available? Are freshmen required to purchase a specific type of meal plan?
4. What hours may students access food services?

About Paying For It

1. What is the yearly cost of attendance, including books, tuition, fees, housing and meal plans? In other words, what is the all-inclusive cost?
2. Does your ability to pay the full cost of attendance have any impact on the college's decision to admit you?
3. Which financial aid forms are required? (The most common two are the FAFSA and the CSS PROFILE, but some schools have institutional or school-specific forms and some states have special forms.)
4. What percent of entering freshmen receive aid? What was the average freshman aid package? Is there a way aid is packaged, loans first for example? If you are unhappy with your aid package, is it negotiable?
5. If you demonstrate need, will the school be able to prepare a financial aid package that will meet 100% of your demonstrated need?
6. What types of payment plans exist for paying the Estimated Family Contribution?