

Questions for College Representatives

Introduction

An important step in the process of selecting the right college to attend is to visit with representatives of colleges when they come to your high school (visits in the career resource enter). Most students will meet with 10-15 college reps before deciding which colleges to visit. By doing so, you will have factual data upon which to base your final decision about which college is "right" for you. Ideally, the college you attend should meet your needs in several ways:

1. It should be a place where you fit in academically and socially.
2. It should be a place where you will be able to prepare for the future and at the same time pursue other interests.
3. You should feel comfortable with its course of study, faculty and staff and "atmosphere."
4. You should be able to visualize yourself being successful there.
5. You should be able to afford your education! Some debt is ok, but know your potential payment vs income.

By getting answers to the questions listed below, you will be well on your way to deciding where a particular college will meet your needs. Although many of these questions may be answered by reading literature from colleges or viewing videotapes, you will get answers to all of them by visiting with college representatives at your school's career center, planning a campus visit or attending a college fair or night.

SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK OF COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES:

1. What is the average GPA of an entering freshman? ACT or SAT score?
2. What is the faculty-student ratio?
3. What is the average class size for an introductory course? Are they taught by professors or grad students?
4. What percentage of faculty members hold grad school degrees; Ph.D., Ed.D., Spc., M.A. etc. . . ?
5. How is the academic calendar year set up?
6. How is admission to the college determined? „What are YOU looking for?“
7. Can I have a campus tour? Sit in on class? Have lunch in a dining hall? Stay overnight in a dorm?
8. When is the application deadline? Rolling, Wait list, Early Decision, Early Action etc. . . Is there a non-refundable deposit?
9. What is the average drop out rate/how many return for freshman, sophomore years? What types of reasons do the students give? What percent of students graduate in 4 -5 years?
10. Do you have a Career Planning Program and/or facilities? Do you help graduates find jobs? Alumni?
11. What is the school's overall placement rate? What is it in my intended major? What percent of students move on to graduate school?
12. What are the school's basic costs (tuition, room, board, and fees)? What is the estimate for books and spending money?
13. What kinds of Financial Aid programs are available? What forms should I fill out? By when? Are there any special scholarships offered by the school or its alumni? Are jobs/work study available on campus?
14. Can I have a car on campus during my freshman year? What is the parking permit fee?
15. What types of college housing are there? Can I live off-campus?
16. How many students are there per room?
17. What kind of things should I bring to the campus when I move in?
18. What varsity sports are played? Intramural sports?
19. Do you award athletic scholarships? How do I „walk on“ a team?
20. What kind of extra-curricular and inter-mural sports activities are available?
21. What percentage of students are from other states? Other countries?
22. What is the surrounding community like?
23. What percentage of students belong to a fraternity or sorority and what is their importance to college social life?
24. What kind of orientation program is there? When is it held?
25. Will I be assigned a faculty advisor? How often will we meet?
26. What do you consider the school's top three programs?
27. Are there opportunities to study abroad?

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Finally, as you move toward deciding which college will be "right" for you, valuable information about colleges can be gotten from:

1. Your parents.
2. Your school's guidance counselors.
3. Graduates of your high school.
4. Friends who are familiar with colleges you are considering.

Checklist for a Campus Visit

A campus visit is highly recommended. Most students will visit 4-6 colleges before deciding on which college to apply. Before you visit the campus, consider some of the options below. It is also important to develop a list of questions and plan specific activities in order to accomplish your goals.

- Meet with an admission officer.
- Verify admission requirements (test and high school preparation).
- Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- Find out how to apply.
- Obtain a school calendar and a catalog.
- Determine college costs.
- Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, academic atmosphere.
- Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- Tour the campus (e sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, etc.)
- Talk to students about the general academic environment and the amount and kind of study necessary for success.
- Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available and about campus life in terms of dating and social activities.
- Investigate transportation options.