

Talking to Prospective Colleges

Tips for talking to representatives:

- Avoid asking basic questions that can be easily answered via Google or a quick search of the school's website
 - For instance, questions like the following fall into that category:
 - Do you have a psychology major?
 - When was the school founded?
 - How many students are in the freshman class?
 - What was last year's rate of acceptance?
- Reference that you have visited the website, but were more curious about _____ topic
- Don't ask a question for the sake of asking a question. Ask what is most relevant to your interests and needs.

What are some of the most important factors for YOU in choosing your future college?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Turn your top 5 concerns into questions to ask the representatives.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Questions to consider when talking with colleges: (Content below includes content from <https://blog.prepscholar.com/good-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-tour>)

Academics

1. What is the average class size for a _____ major?
2. What is the average class size for a general education class?
3. What percentage of your students graduate in 4 years?
4. How do you support a student who hasn't chosen a major?
5. Are some majors or departments considered stronger or more popular than others?
6. Are the classes more lecture-based or discussion-based?
7. Would you describe any classes as especially innovative or project-based?
8. How many of the classes are taught by a professor, and how many are taught by a teaching assistant?
9. What kind of classes have smaller section meetings? What are they like?
10. How are freshman advisors assigned?
11. How would you describe the freshman experience, in terms of advising or any classes that everyone has to take?
12. Do the professors hold office hours? How often can students interact with professors outside of class?
13. Can undergraduates work with professors on research?
14. Are there honors programs or capstone classes? If so, what are they like?
15. Do any majors require seniors to write a thesis or complete a senior project?

Academic and Social-Emotional Support

1. Can you get help from professors outside of the classroom?
2. Is there free academic support or tutoring? Is it effective?
3. What kind of resources are there for international student support and orientation?
4. What kind of learning disability resources does the school offer?
5. Is there a writing center to help with essays and research papers?
6. Do students organize study groups or online discussion forums?

7. How accessible and helpful is health services?
8. Do students or administrators organize conversations for students to talk about their feelings on important issues and events?

Research, Internship, and Study Abroad Opportunities

1. What percentage of your graduating students gain meaningful employment after graduation?
2. What kind of opportunities exist for undergraduates to work on research or academic projects with professors?
3. What kind of internships are available?
4. How does the school help students find internships?
5. Are any departments known for their contribution to research?
6. Do any majors prepare students to continue as researchers in a Master's or doctoral program?
7. Are study abroad programs popular? Any ones in particular?
8. Do students of certain majors, like engineers, find it difficult to study abroad?
9. Are there internship opportunities abroad?
10. Are there opportunities through the school for summer internships or research?

Extracurriculars

1. What are some of the most popular extracurriculars and why?
2. What clubs or other opportunities exist for community service?
3. Do sports play a large role on campus? What about intramurals or exercise classes?
4. In what ways do students connect with and volunteer in the surrounding community?

Residence Life

1. What are the residence halls like? Are there lounges, laundry, and kitchens? Shared or private restrooms?
2. Do certain residence halls appeal to students with different interests, like a "healthy living" dorm?
3. Do most students live in the residence halls? What about after sophomore or junior year? If they move off campus, do they live in apartments or shared houses?
4. How are the resident counselors? Do they plan social events for freshmen to get to know one another?
5. What would I do in case of a conflict or need for a room switch? Is that possible?
6. What kind of food does the dining hall serve? Are there different options?
7. Does the dining hall accommodate special dietary restrictions?

Campus Culture and Surrounding Area

1. Where do students tend to hang out on and off campus?
2. Are there movie theaters and concert venues? What about good cafes for getting work done or finding the perfect pumpkin spice latte?
3. How would you describe the presence of Greek life? Do a lot of students belong to fraternities or sororities?
4. How ethnically diverse is the campus?
5. How many international students are there? What countries do they come from?
6. Do students stick around or go home on weekends?
7. Have there been any recent student protests? What were they protesting, and how did staff and faculty respond?
8. What are some big campus events, like homecoming or alumni weekend?
9. Is it easy to get around campus or get off campus without a car?
10. What transportation options are there around campus?
11. Is it a safe area to walk around at night? What kind of safety measures are in place?
12. Do many students work on or off campus? How easy is it to find a part-time job?

Questions to Ask a Financial Aid Officer

1. What is the average out-of-pocket cost for a student to attend your school?
2. How many students receive merit-based scholarships? How much is offered?
3. Are there other scholarships that students can apply for at the time of application?
4. How much do students typically owe after graduating?
5. Can I renegotiate my offer if it's lower than I expected?

6. What are some opportunities for work-study?

General

1. What's unique about this college?
2. What leads most students to choose this college?
3. What qualities and experiences are you looking for in applicants?
4. Can you tell me more about the application evaluation process?
5. How large of a role do SAT scores play in admissions?
6. Do you have any advice for applicants? Does this differ for early versus regular decision applications?
7. What percentage of students graduate in four years?
8. What are the college's most important values, and how does it demonstrate this to students?
9. What sort of student would succeed here?
10. What sort of student might *not* be happy here?
11. Can you tell me about career placements or grad school acceptances for graduates?
12. How do you help students prepare for post-grad employment?
13. Do you have an active alumni network?