

# Questions to Ask on Your College Visit

## About Academics

1. What academic elements are considered in the admissions process and what importance is attached to each?
  - Courses taken
  - Grades/GPA
  - Test scores
  - Rank
  - Interests/Major
  - Institutional needs
  - Essays
  - Recommendations
  - Interviews
2. Is it more difficult to gain admission if I apply under a certain major?
3. Which academic programs/majors are the most popular?
4. When do I have to declare a major?
5. How easy is it to change majors?
6. Do you have a required core curriculum?
7. What are the largest classes one could have as a freshman or sophomore--average class size?
8. How many large classes should I expect?
9. Who teaches the freshman classes--Teaching Assistants/Graduate Assistants?
10. Do you grant credit for AP/IB courses/tests, and if so, what scores are required for credit?
11. (If this applies to you) Are there any special support services for a special needs student (ADD, ADHD, LD, etc.)? How do these support services function, and is there any additional cost charged for these services?
12. Is there an Honor Code? How does it operate?
13. Is there an Honors Program for talented students? How do you qualify?
14. Are freshmen assigned to an academic advisor? If so, are advisors easily accessible to students?
15. How easy is it to meet with faculty?
16. What are the application deadlines?
17. How many applications does the college receive; how many students are accepted?
18. How diverse is the student body—ethnically, religiously, geographically?

## **About Social/Recreational Opportunities**

1. What activities do students participate in during their free time both on campus (school sponsored) and in the community?
  - Clubs
  - Band
  - Theater
  - Sports—intramural and/or club
  - Tutoring
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? Have any fraternities/sororities been put on probation?
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 for trips to shopping areas and transportation centers for trips home?
7. Can freshmen have cars on campus? What is the fee for having a car on campus? Is parking easily accessible and near residence halls?
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 is available? Do students need to bring their own computer? Can computers/software be purchased through the school with a discount? What kind of internet/email services are available in dorms?
4. What laundry facilities are available/cost?
5. What are the safety issues on campus and how are they addressed? How many crime incidents were on campus and in the surrounding community last year? Ask for a crime report. Federal law requires schools to provide safety information to students. What safety programs are in place on campus?
6. 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? What types of financial aid does the college offer and how do you apply? 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?
7. What are the financial aid deadlines?

## **Graduation/Other**

1. What types of internships are available?
2. How effective are your placement services? What percentage of graduates obtain jobs in their chosen field? What is the average income of graduates?
3. What are current issues on campus?
4. What are the strengths/weaknesses of your college?