

BEFORE THE CAMPUS VISIT...

GATHERING INFORMATION

Keep these questions in mind as you are gathering information about colleges. They will help you get the most out of the written information you see about a school, and are good questions to ask representatives at college fairs.

Type of Institution

- Is it a two-year or four-year school?
- Is it a state school, private, or religiously affiliated?
- How many students attend the school?
- Is it in a rural, urban, or suburban setting?
- What is the ratio of men to women?
- What is the academic calendar (semesters, trimesters)?

Costs

- What are the estimated total costs per year?
- How much does it cost if you don't live in the dorms or eat in the dining hall?
- Are there part-time jobs available either on campus or locally?

Financial Aid

- What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- Is financial aid guaranteed throughout years of attendance?
- Are there academic or athletic scholarships available?
- What is the deadline for applying for financial aid?
- What forms are required?

Academics

- What majors are available?
- What is the student-faculty ratio?
- What is the average class size (for both introductory and upper level courses)?
- What are the math and foreign language requirements?
- What is the academic advisor system like?
- Can students cross-register or take classes at another college?

Admissions

- What is emphasized when looking at applications?
- What are the requirements (SATs, essay, etc.)?
- Is an interview recommended or required?
- What is the academic profile of students generally accepted to this institution?
- What is the deadline for applications? Does the school have rolling admissions, early action, or early decision?
- When are students notified of admissions decision?

Career Planning and Placement

- What kinds of career counseling opportunities are available?
- Does the school provide opportunities for specialized training?
- Are internships, cooperative work arrangements, or independent study opportunities available to students?
- Are ROTC programs offered?
- What kind of jobs do graduates get?
- How many graduates go on to graduate or professional schools?

Dorms

- Are freshmen required to live on campus?
- Are the dorms coed or single-sex?
- How many students typically share a room?
- Are the dorm staff professionals or students?

Social Life and Extracurricular Activities

- What on-campus clubs and organizations are offered?
 - What is the athletic program like?
 - What kind of sports facilities does the school have?
 - Are there fraternities and sororities?
 - What do students do on the weekend?
 - What does the surrounding community offer students?
 - What other colleges are nearby?
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