

Questions to ask on a College Tour

Prospective Student

- 1) Will this school help me become the person I want to be?
- 2) How will I make the most of the opportunities this school provides?
- 3) Is graduate/professional school in my future? (prestige of grad school more important than undergrad)
- 4) **Arrange to sit in on a class or two to observe quality of instruction and student engagement**

Parents

- 1) Will my child be instructed by Teaching Assistants? (TA's)
- 2) How much coursework will be online?
- 3) What kind of mentoring is available? Will my child develop relationships with potential recommenders for graduate school?
- 4) How do you integrate freshmen into your program?

Academics

Does the school have a "freshman experience," learning communities, or a first-year advising program?

What is the academic culture, and what are the course requirements?

What is the average class size?

Are any courses taught by teaching assistants and, if so, what percent?

Are classes on this campus typically lecture based or discussion based?

Is there a core curriculum or set of requirements to earn a degree? What are they?

How much freedom do students have to choose their courses?

What opportunities are there for undergraduate research?

Is there a culminating senior year experience or thesis?

Do you have an honors college? What are the benefits? What are the requirements to be invited? To maintain membership?

Academic Support

What is the relationship between students and their professors?

Who does the academic advising, and how are students assigned to these advisors?

What type of tutoring programs/academic services do you offer? Cost?

Do you have a writing center?

Financial Aid

What is the cost of tuition - part or full-time?

What is the cost of attendance (including tuition AND room/board, meal plan, books, etc.)?

What is your average financial aid package?

What percentage of financial need does the school typically meet?

Do the financial aid packages include loans?

What are the forms I need to complete to be considered for Financial Aid? FAFSA only? CSS profile?

What are your merit scholarship opportunities?

Do the merit scholarships require a supplemental application?

What is the average debt for graduating seniors?

What are the work-study opportunities?

Outside Opportunities

What are the religious opportunities on campus?
What clubs or activities are offered on campus?
What are the most popular activities on this campus?
What career services do you have?
How many students at the college earn internships?
Where have students interned in the past few years?
What are some opportunities for students during the summer months?
What are the study abroad opportunities? How many students study abroad?

Student Life

What are the residence hall options? Do students choose or are they assigned?
In what style residence hall do freshman typically live?
What percentage of students lives on campus?
Do students typically stay on campus during the weekends or leave town?
What percentage of students transfers in or out?
What are the campus food options? Off campus options?
How many fraternities and sororities are there on campus? What percentage of the student body is "Greek"?

Graduation

What is your four-year graduation rate? Five or more?
What are the requirements to graduate in four years?
How easy is it to change your major or transfer to a different college within the university?
What is your job placement rate?
What percentage of students are admitted to a graduate program (Law School, Med School, etc.)?

You might ask to see:

A typical classroom (Intro classes, small sections, lecture, etc.)

FRESHMAN dorm room

Library (Observe: Are students there? Are they studying?)

Dining Hall (Observe: Are students talking to each other? What are they discussing?)

Student Services

Health Services

Career Services