

Questions to Ask College Admissions Representatives

College reps genuinely enjoy talking to high school students. They like to share their ideas about their college, and they all appreciate students who want to know more than appears in the brochures or on the website. Here are typical examples of questions you may want to ask. Be sure to ask how the school is handling the COVID-19 crisis and what the implications are for the college admissions cycle.

Academics and faculty

- How would you describe the academic rigor and the workload?
- What is distinctive about education here? What is the educational philosophy of the college? How has it changed in recent years?
- What is the most highly regarded majors on campus? Why?
- Do you think that students are generally enthusiastic about their classes? Do people talk about their courses outside of class?
- Is there a good balance of academics, social life, and extracurricular activities?
- Are there research possibilities with the faculty? In what areas? When during the year?
- What percentage of students complete research?
- Can you explain the advising system?
- Is the faculty interested in and accessible to students after class?
- Are curriculum changes in the works? How will that affect my college years?
- Are any new programs scheduled for the next four years?

Campus facilities: Housing and dining —

- What are the housing options and how many students live on campus for 4 years?
- Can you talk about the advantages of living on campus?
- Is there something I should know about housing that would help me in my choice?
- Can you explain the process of living on campus and choosing a roommate?
- What are the types of food plans? All you can eat? Vegetarian? Kosher?
- How does a student choose a meal plan?
- What is the most popular food plan?
- How do students feel about the food and the meal plans?

Activity centers and athletic and recreational facilities

- What kinds of facilities does the student center have? Is it extensively used?
- Are there other hangouts?
- What is there to do for fun on campus?
- How do most students get around? What percentage of students bring cars?
- How would you rate the fitness centers?

Support Services/Campus Climate

- What support is there for students who are first gen, minority, or from lower income-earning backgrounds?
- Can you explain how advising is done on campus and for how long? Is it major specific? Does your advisor change over your four years?
- What is the campus climate for students who identify on the LGBTQ spectrum?
- How does the campus lean politically? How accepting are students when their peers have a different perspective?
- What support services are available for students: including academic tutors, and math or writing centers?
- What career advisement and services are available? How much are they utilized?

- How often do students take part in internships or co-ops?
- Is health insurance required by the university?
- Is there a doctor, nurse, counselor, psychologist, or health center on campus?
- What is the waiting period for appointments?
- What campus safety initiatives are there?
- How present is the security on campus?

Admissions/Financial Aid

- You read so many applications. What makes an application stand out to you?
- Which type of students are most successful here? Which ones aren't a good fit?
- What are your top 5 tips for us as we prepare to submit our applications?
- What are the top 3 programs or qualities that make your college unique?
- Can you discuss study abroad and explain whether your school has its own programs and professors teaching courses in other countries or not?
- Can I use my financial aid toward study abroad?
- What percentage of demonstrated need does your school meet? Does your school have special programs to help students from financially challenged households pay for college?
- What is the average indebtedness of a Pell Grant student upon graduation?
- Can you offer any tips for us as we prepare to go through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for the first time?
- What percentage of your class is admitted from early decision or early action programs?

Social life and campus activities

- What do students do for fun? What are the most popular clubs and activities?
- How important is community service?
- How open are students to ethnic and socio-economic diversity?
- Is there Greek life? What is the role of fraternities and sororities on campus? If I didn't want to join, how will this affect my social life?
- What role do team sports play in the social life of the college? What happens on football or basketball weekends? What percentage of students participate in intramurals or intercollegiate sports?
- What were the social or cultural highlights last year?
- What is the role of the campus newspaper?
- What would a normal Wednesday night and a normal Saturday look like if I lived on campus?

Adapted from Campus Visits & College Interviews by Zola Dincin Schneider