

Questions to ask at College Fair

One of the best ways to gather information about colleges is to ask questions of people who are knowledgeable.

Academic Program. What degrees are offered? Majors? Minors? Electives? What core courses are required in freshman year? Any special programs such as: independent study, off-campus study, study abroad, joint programs with nearby colleges? Is the college noted for any of its programs? How intense is the academic pressure on students?

Accreditations. Is the college accredited? By whom? Has it lost any accreditations? Any pending?

Activities. Does the school have publications such as a student newspaper, magazine, or yearbook? Are there clubs for dance, drama, or debate? Is there a band, orchestra, radio station, or TV station? Does the school allow fraternities or sororities? Can I join political organizations, ethnic organizations, or community service programs?

Admissions. What are the admissions requirements: SAT or ACT, high school academic units, interview, class rank, high school GPA, recommendations, or achievement test(s)? Any special requirements for certain programs such as: portfolio, audition, interviews, or tests? What are the admissions deadlines: rolling, early admissions, or deferred admissions? What is the application fee? What percent of applicants are accepted? What are average SAT or ACT scores for incoming freshmen? What are minimum acceptable scores?

Alumni. What percentage of graduates enter graduate school? Which schools? What occupations are alumni employed in? Any outstanding alumni?

Campus. What is campus setting: urban, suburban, or rural? How large is the campus? How many buildings? Are other colleges nearby? What are the local cultural and social attractions?

Costs. What are charges for tuition, rooms, and meals? Are different plans available? Is a down payment required? When? Any special payment plans?

Counseling. Are faculty advisors provided? Student advisors? Personal or psychological counseling? Financial counseling? Career counseling? Placement counseling?

Faculty. What is the size of the faculty, both full- and part-time? What percentage hold PhDs? What is student-faculty ratio? Do graduate students teach? What is average class size? Any outstanding faculty members?

Financial Aid. What financial-aid programs does the college have? How many students receive financial aid? What is the average package? Does the college place students in jobs on or off campus?

Freshmen. Are there special freshman seminars? Freshman orientation courses? What is the student-faculty ratio in freshman courses? What is the quality of freshman residence halls?

Handicapped Students. Does the college have any special programs and facilities for persons with handicapping conditions?

Living Accommodations. Are dormitories available? How many? Are men and women separated? How many students per room or suite? Are there any restrictions? What are campus regulations for boarding students?

Religion. Is college religiously affiliated? Are students predominantly of one religion? What facilities are available for religious services on campus? Off campus? Are there religious organizations?

Social Life. Events on campus? Off campus? What kind of spirit do the students have?

Sports. What are the college's athletic facilities? What sports is the college involved with intercollegiately? What intramural sports? Any **athletic scholarships**?

Student Body. How many students are residents, commuters, undergraduates, and graduate students? Where do they come from? What is the ratio of men to women, and overall demographics?

Transportation. Is public transportation available? Is there ample parking on campus? Can freshman residents have cars?