



Education  
USA

Your Official Source on U.S. Higher Education



## MEETING A SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE WHAT TO ASK?

People are different so each student has **different criteria for choosing** a college or university. Criteria can be anything from class size, location, selectivity, possibility of internships or off campus projects to location of the school and many others.

It is important to **know what your criteria are** and then to **ask the right questions** to see if a specific college or university can meet them. This way you can find schools that will provide you with supportive educational environment that will meet your needs and support you in the best possible way in achieving your educational, professional and other goals.

Here are just some questions to help you out when preparing your own question list. Keep in mind that some questions are specific to either undergraduate or graduate studies:

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLEGE:

Where is the college/ university located?  
Is it a rural or urban campus?  
Is the school public or private?  
Is the school religiously affiliated?  
Does the school offer 2 or 4 year degrees?  
How many students are in the freshman class?  
What is the total student population?  
Is it a diverse student population?  
Does the university offer graduate level courses?  
What is the male to female ratio?  
What is the student to faculty ratio?  
How many students are from out of state?  
How many international students do you have?  
What is the average class size?

### ACADEMICS:

How many majors and programs are offered?  
Are students required to declare a major?  
- If so, when do they have to declare by?  
- Do you recommend students declare a major before starting their freshman year?  
- Is it difficult to change majors?

If you already know what you want to major in, you can ask:  
- Are there separate application requirements within a major?

- Is there a different GPA requirement to be considered for a program than to be accepted to the college?
- How competitive is it to get accepted into \_\_\_\_\_ major?
- Are there internship or research opportunities available for undergraduates?
  - Are internships obligatory requirement to graduate?
- Is there a mandatory "co-op learning" program?
- Are general education classes required?
- Are classes taught by professors or by Teaching Assistants?
- Are professors required to have office hours?
- Do you offer online classes?
- Is there an academic support center on campus?
- What services are available for students with learning difficulties or other disabilities?
- Do most students graduate in 4 years?
  - How many credits or hours are required to proceed to the next academic year?
  - Can I double major?
  - What percent of students get a job after graduation?
- Are there opportunities for university exchange programs?
- How long does it take to complete master's/ doctoral degree?

### ADMISSIONS:

- When is the application deadline?
- Is there an early application deadline?
  - Is there an application fee? If so, how much is it? Is there a fee waiver possibility?
  - Is there rolling admissions?

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- Do you have an online application?
- When will I receive an admissions decision?
- Is an essay a required part of the application?
- Does the college accept the Common Application?
- Does the college require a supplemental essay?
- Is the SAT, ACT, or TOEFL required/recommended for admissions?
- What is the average score for each test?
- What exams do you require for an admission to your graduate programs?
- What is the minimum GPA requirement to be considered for admission?
- What is the average GPA of an accepted student?
- What is the percentage of out-of-state/international students accepted?
- Is orientation required for accepted students?
- Should my parents attend orientation?
- Is there an honors program on campus?
- If so, is there a separate application to apply?
- What is the academic profile of an honors student?
- Do you accept high school AP/IB credits?
- Do you accept community college credits?
- How can I transfer from a community college to a four-year university?
- Would you accept a student with 3-years bachelor to your graduate program?
- What are the requirements to be accepted into a doctoral degree?

#### **PAYING FOR COLLEGE:**

- What is the tuition for international students?
- What types of scholarships and financial aid are available to international students?
- Do you offer merit / need based scholarships?
- Are there any full tuition scholarship programs available?
- Can I qualify for scholarships after I have enrolled as a student?
- When do I need to apply?
- Are work study opportunities available?
- If so, how many hours are required?
- Do you offer Teaching Assistantships/ Graduate Assistantships/ Research Assistantships at your University?
- What is the average price of books?
- Do book prices differ depending on major?
- Is tuition fixed for all 4 years or does it change and if yes, what is the average change per year?
- Is there a possibility of loans for international students?

#### **HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE:**

- Are freshman required to live on campus?
- Are there freshman only dorms?
- Is there an Honors Program dorm?
- What are the housing options available (i.e. communal bathrooms for the floor, suites, etc.)?
- What will my dorm room come with?
- Is bed-lifting available?
- Is wireless internet available in the dorms?
- May I select a roommate?
- Will I have a Residential Advisor on my floor?
- Are there dining halls in the dorm?
- Are freshman allowed to have cars?
- If so, how available is parking to students?
- How much are residential parking permits?
- What percentage of students live on-campus?
- When are students eligible to move off-campus?
- What percent of students live off-campus?
- How many dining halls are on campus?
- What types of meal plans are available?
- How late are the dining halls open?
- Does my meal plan work off campus?
- Are there any chain restaurants on campus?
- Are there take-out options on campus?
- Are there dining options for students with dietary restrictions?

#### **STUDENT LIFE:**

- What is a unique feature of your campus?
- How many clubs and organizations are on campus?
- Can I start my own club?
- What types of events are hosted on campus for students?
- Is there Greek life?
- Are sororities and fraternities prominent on campus?
- What volunteer opportunities are available through the college?
- Are there academic clubs on campus?
- How active is the student government on campus?
- Is there a large student center?
- If so, what can you do there?
- Are there club and intramural sports?
- Is there a gym on campus?
- If so, is there a fee for joining?
- What percentage of students are student athletes?
- Are there religiously based services on campus?
- Are there campus job opportunities?
- What activities are available to do off campus (i.e. skiing, hiking, etc.)?
- Is public transportation available to students?
- Where is the closest airport?

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