

QUESTIONS TO ASK ON A COLLEGE TOUR/VISIT

Questions for Admissions AND Current Students (and/or Tour Guide)

- Why did you choose to come to this school? What do you like and dislike about it?
- How many of your courses are taught by a professor vs. a teaching assistant?
- Do most freshmen class lectures take place in an amphitheater? What is the size of the biggest class you have taken?
- What are the strong majors? The weak majors? How do they fit with your career goals?
- How hard do you have to work for your grades?
- How adequate for your needs is the campus computer network?
- Do fraternities and sororities dominate the social life of the college?
- What do students do on weekends? Do most go home?
- What is the advisement system? Do you feel that your professors really care?
- Are there opportunities to study abroad? Does the school provide guidance through that process? Are abroad opportunities available for every major? Is there additional cost?
- How active is the _____ [fill in activity]? Has _____ won any national awards?
- If I decide to come here, how should I prepare for placement testing or other entrance requirements?

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About the Campus

- ❑ Do freshmen live in their own dorms? How do you feel about living in a single-sex or coed dorm?

- ❑ Are the dorms quiet or noisy? Do they seem crowded? Is the size adequate? Is there network access?

- ❑ What is the condition of the playing fields and the sports equipment?

- ❑ How is the quality of the food in the cafeteria or dining hall? How are the sizes of the portions? Is it healthy or fast food?

- ❑ Are the dorms spread throughout the campus or clustered in one area? Is there any kind of shuttle service between classroom areas, the library, the student union, and dorms? How late does it run?

About the Nearby Area

- ❑ Does it look like there is much to do outside of campus?

- ❑ How easy is to get to places off campus? Are there places within walking distance?

- ❑ Do you feel comfortable and safe?

- ❑ Are there places to get extra furniture, like bookcases, for your dorm room or a market nearby to get personal items and food?

About Health and Safety

- ❑ Is there any security system to bar outsiders from entering dorms?
- ❑ How large is the campus security police force? Does it patrol the campus regularly?
- ❑ What services are offered by the campus health center? How large is it?
- ❑ Does the student health center refer students to the local hospital? Is there a nearby hospital? How large is it?

Questions to Ask Yourself About the Campus Atmosphere

- ❑ While you were waiting for your interview in the Admissions Office, how did the staff members interact with students? Were they friendly, or did the staff approach students—both potential freshmen like you and enrolled students—as if they were interfering with the staff members' jobs?
- ❑ Was the Admissions Office a friendly and inviting place with a great deal of information about the school, or was it cold and sterile with little information to pick up?
- ❑ What did you find out about the career planning services offered to graduating seniors and to graduates? What do the services include?
- ❑ Think about the students you saw on campus who were not part of your tour. Do you feel like you “fit” with them?

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A Few More Things to Think About:

- ❑ Is there one school that stands out above the others? If so, you may want to apply to that school for early action or early decision.

- ❑ Are you a student with a disability (physical, learning, etc)? What did you find out about the programs available for students who need additional services? Will these services meet your needs, and if not, will the school work with you to develop an appropriate program?

- ❑ Is there at least one school on your list that is financially in your family's reach? It is wise to apply to at least one school that you would be happy to attend if financial aid does not work out at other schools.

- ❑ What do your parents think about the schools you saw? Like it or not, their opinion is important; they may see things you did not see or ask questions you might not think to ask.

Sources:

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