



COLLEGE VISIT QUESTIONS

Ensure at a minimum the student completes online research of the college before a visit in order to avoid asking a question easily found on the school's website, and to tailor any question directly to the school being visited. Use these two sets of questions to prompt thought into what is important to you and your family, then pay careful attention during the presentations, Q&A, and tour on a typical college visit day to either hear the answer or for the opportunity to ask. Remember, the **student** should almost always be the one to ask the questions, and don't monopolize; these questions could also be sent via email after the fact. During almost every tour I attended with one of my three kids there was at least one parent who asked multiple questions in a row, often with their teen shifting uncomfortably nearby.

Potential questions for an admissions and/or financial aid representative:

- 1- How does financial aid work if you are studying abroad, student teaching, completing an internship, or other off-campus learning? In other words, will the financial aid package travel with the student or are there additional fees or costs?
- 2- What is the criteria for maintaining financial aid? It will likely vary, but they should be able to tell you about the basic requirements for maintaining a college-provided scholarship or grant.
- 3- How do you ensure diversity of thought in the speakers and other events on campus?
- 4- If the school has an Early Decision (ED) option (which is binding if accepted), what happens if a teen applies with that option, is accepted, then the financial aid award is not helpful enough for the teen to attend?
- 5- How does housing work when you return to campus if you are studying abroad, student teaching, completing an internship, or other off-campus learning?
- 6- How is professor quality measured and addressed?
- 7- Number of large lecture classes and what courses usually include large enrollment. Do not let them simply quote the "average" class size...that is almost meaningless.
- 8- Do you utilize students, graduates or undergraduates, as TA's (Teaching Assistants), SI's (Supplemental Instructors), or similar? If so, what is their role? Do they teach classes, grade papers or tests, provide extra instruction, or something else?

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Potential questions for an admissions and/or financial aid representative (cont):

9- How did the college support students during the pandemic? What were the impacts of COVID between 2020 and 2022, and are there any ongoing impacts of the pandemic? In other words, what changed? (good or not so good)

10- Can I meet (in-person or virtually) with a professor in the department I am interested in studying, and/or with a student?

11- After researching the college before the visit, come up with a question not found on the site but related to something you read on the site in an area you are interested in, e.g., possible major, housing options, significant event on the campus, etc.

Additional questions or notes:

Remember, the **student** should almost always be the one to ask the questions, and please don't monopolize the guide's time. Remember to take a few pictures unobtrusively to remember important specifics about each campus...the tours will blend together!

Potential questions for a student guide:

- 1- Number and circumstances of large lecture classes you have attended or observed?
- 2- How difficult is it to register for required classes? Any electives particularly difficult to register for?
- 3- How many (number or %) classes are taught by TA's in your experience or observation?
- 4- What is campus life like? Living arrangements? Culture? Food? Things to do? Places to study? Sports and other activities? What do students usually do on the weekends?
- 5- Describe any required freshman classes or seminars.
- 6- Overall are the professors good? Any in particular stand out?
- 7- Are courses challenging? In what way/s?
- 8- Use/visibility of career counseling, specific to internships, resume building, determining majors, etc.?
- 9- What other colleges did you consider? How/why did you decide on this one?
- 10- Anything you brought to campus you wish you hadn't, or should have brought but didn't?
- 11- How are the weather-related accommodations?- A/C, tunnels for winter walking, etc., depending on the area of the country you are visiting.

Additional questions or notes: