

Questions to Ask on a Campus Tour

During your campus tour, you need to ask questions as well as look around. Here are some questions to consider asking. Add your own questions at the end of the list. Go over the questions with your parents before your first campus visit so they can be on the lookout for answers, too. After each visit, review the list to see if there are any other questions you might want to add.

NOTE: Answer as many of these questions AHEAD OF TIME by doing research on the school. Don't spend time asking questions that are answered in the school's catalog or brochures. You want to make a good impression and be remembered for being well informed ahead of time!

Questions for the Admissions Office

1. What type of high school background are you looking for in applicants?
2. Do you require that applicants take the SAT, ACT or Achievement Tests?
3. What is the avg. high school GPA of the entering freshman class, and what is their avg. GPA after freshmen year?
4. What are the application deadlines for admission and financial aid?
5. Do you have early admission? Early decision?
6. Do you have deadlines or rolling admission?
7. What are the five strongest majors at your institution?
8. When do I have to declare a major?
9. What is the tuition? Does that include Room and Board?
10. What is the total cost of attending the college?
11. What types of financial aid does the college offer and how do I apply?
12. What scholarships are available specific to this school? Where can I get the application deadlines for the scholarships?
13. Are all freshmen assigned to an academic advisor?
14. Do you accept AP credits?
15. How successful are the college's graduates in finding jobs?
16. Are the dorms spread throughout the campus or clustered in one area? Are freshman guaranteed a dorm? What are the visitation policies for the dorms?
17. How are roommates selected?
18. Is there any kind of shuttle service between classroom areas, the library, the student union, and dorms? How late does it run?

19. What are the sizes of the various classes, especially for freshmen and sophomores? Are freshmen and sophomores put into large classes without much access to top faculty?
20. What are the best places for students to work (study) at the college? Are space and carrels available in the library? For freshmen? What resources are there for students who seek tutoring? Is there a writing center?
21. What services are offered by the campus health center? How large is it? Is it open 24 hours a day?
22. What can you tell me about drug/alcohol use on your campus? Incidence of date rape? What controls are in place?
23. Is there any security system to bar outsiders from entering dorms? How is campus security assured?
24. How large is the campus security police force? Does it patrol the campus regularly?
25. Can freshman have a car on campus?

Questions for Students

1. What activities and services are available to help students get settled (academically and socially) during their first year?
2. How many of your courses are taught by professors and how many by a teaching assistant?
3. Is the teaching innovative and project-oriented, or is it mostly lecture-oriented?
4. Do most freshmen class lectures take place in an amphitheater?
5. What are the strong majors? The weak majors?
6. How hard do you have to work for your grades?
7. What's the reputation of the _____ department?
8. How adequate for your needs is the campus computer network?
9. Do fraternities and sororities dominate the social life of the college?
10. What do students do on weekends? Do most go home?
11. How is the advisement system? Do you feel that your professors really care?
12. There are a lot of organizations on campus. Are they dominated by a few groups or is anyone welcome?
13. What, if any, are common student complaints?
14. How good are the extracurricular programs and social life of the college? What about intramural athletics?

Questions to Ask Yourself About the Campus Atmosphere

1. 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?
2. 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?
3. What did your parents find out about the career planning services offered to graduating seniors and to graduates? What do the services include?

About the Student Body

1. Do most of the students seem to be like you, or are they completely different?
2. Either way, how would you feel being in a classroom full of these students? Sharing a dorm with them?
3. Do the students try to make you feel at home? Are they happy to answer your questions, or do they make you feel like you're intruding? How do they interact with one another?

About the Campus

1. Does the campus seem too big? Or too small?
2. Do freshmen live in their own dorms? How do I feel about living in a single-sex or coed dorm?
3. Are the dorms quiet or noisy? Do they seem crowded?
4. How large are the rooms? Is there adequate space and light to study?
5. How are the dormitories set up? Do most students live in dorms all four years? Are they co-educational by floor, by building, or not at all? Are there quiet study hours? Are those hours enforced? Are there upper-class student resident advisers? What sort of regular access do students have to adults in the community?
6. Does each room have access to the Internet and the campus LAN?
7. What's advertised on dorm and classroom bulletin boards? What does this tell me about campus life?
8. How good is the lighting around each dorm and around classroom and lab buildings?
9. Do the buildings and grounds look well cared for? Or do they need painting and general repair work?

10. Is the grass cut, and are the grounds landscaped?
11. What's the condition of the playing fields and the sports equipment?
12. 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?
13. What meal plans are available? Are students happy with the dining services?

About the Nearby Area

1. Does it look like there is much to do outside of campus?
2. How easy is it to get to places off campus? Are there places within walking distance?
3. Do you feel comfortable and safe?
4. Are there places to get extra furniture, like bookcases, for your dorm room?
5. Is there a supermarket nearby to stock up on snacks and soda?
6. If you move out of a dorm after freshman year, what are the options in apartment complexes or buildings?