

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR TALKING TO UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

As you research post-secondary institutions, you will discover more questions to ask. Here are some helpful questions to get you started, and to use as a helpful guide in general.

Program related:

- Is my program competitive? How many students apply? How many students are accepted?
- Can I apply to more than one program at your school?
- What courses are required in order to be admitted to the program that interests me?
- Are there additional requirements for admission to the program that interests me?
- Do I have to pass a placement exam?
- What are the specific course requirements for this major?
- Does this major require a minor? If so, what minor(s) might best complement this major?
- Is there a foreign language requirement associated with this major?
- What is the math requirement for this major?
- Is there an introductory course that students can take to determine if this major is a good match for them?
- Are there any specific requirements a student must meet/complete before they can declare this major (for example, completion of specific courses, a GPA requirement, etc.)?
- Do you accept courses that have been taken through night school, summer school and correspondence?
- How much flexibility is there in scheduling?
- What assessment methods are used?
- What's the split between lectures, tutorials and self-directed study?
- Average class size?
- Do class sizes vary according to the program?

- What resources are there for students who seek tutoring? Is there a writing center?
- What size are tutorial groups?
- Details about the facilities (labs, etc.)?
- What opportunities are there to broaden and deepen my understanding of the subject?
- Are placements or study abroad offered, where are they, how are they organized, how do they affect tuition fees?
- What tutoring programs are available?
- How many hours per week do profs offer office appointments?
- How are marks weighted? Example: is the final exam worth 100%? 50%?
- How is class registration scheduled in first year?
- How is class registration scheduled in successive years? Top grades have first choice? Fourth year students have first choice? Random?
- Details about technology on campus? (Wi-Fi? Size of computer labs? Specs about computers? Etc.)

Residence/Housing:

- Is a place in residence guaranteed? What accommodations are available off-campus?
- What does residence cost – and what's included in that cost?
- Will I have to move in and out each term?
- What meal plans are available?
- What percent of freshmen live on campus?
- Can I choose my residence? room? roommate?
- What types of rooms are available? How big are the rooms – are some bigger than others?
- Are single rooms available?
- Details about bathroom facilities? (Ex: co-ed?)
- Details about laundry facilities?

- How quiet are the residences? Quiet buildings? Quiet floors? Quiet hours?
- How secure is it? How many reports of violence, assault, etc. in the past year?
- Is there a “Walk Safe” program, shuttle system, etc. on campus?
- Is residence still an option after first year?
- What is the campus population?
- What is the town/city population?
- Is public transportation available? Bus- subway- taxi? Are discount passes available for students?
- How close is the nearest grocery store? Pharmacy? Hospital? Airport? Bus station? Train station?
- Are meal plans optional or mandatory in residence?
- What types of meal plans are available?
- Do meal plans accommodate food allergies, vegetarian/vegan diets, health or faith-based restrictions, and other dietary requirements?
- Proximity to Home - Do you want to live at home, in residence, or in off-campus housing? *Do you need to be closer to your parents? Are you okay with living farther away to go to school?*

Student Services:

- What academic and career services are available to students?
- What medical facilities are available on campus? Are they open 24 hours a day?
- Are there campus support services specifically for freshmen?
- Are there campus support services specifically for students who live off campus?
- What political organizations are present on campus? (Student Union, etc.?)
- Are mental health services available on campus?
- Are sexual assault services available on campus?
- What religious denominations are represented on campus? In the town/city?
- Which varsity sports are available?

- What sports are available if I'm not on a varsity team?
- What other recreational facilities does the university have? Are these free to use?
- What student clubs can I get involved with?

Finances:

- What are the costs involved in attending your school for one year?
- Is financial aid available from your school?
- Is it only based on my grades?
- Do I need to apply or are there automatic scholarships or bursaries?
- Is it easy to get a part-time job on campus or in the community?
- Average cost for textbooks in my program? Lab fees?
- Is there a used book store or book exchange program?

Questions to ask students currently enrolled in your program of interest:

- Are professors approachable?
- What is the transition like? Is it hard? Did you ever use tutoring services, study groups, or the library?
- How would you characterize each residence? (One is for jocks, one is for brains, one for partiers, etc.?)
- What types of extra-curricular activities did you do? Is it easy to get involved?