

CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE
FREE **FAIRS**
ADMISSION

TOP TEN

Questions to Ask
a College Rep

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Top Ten Questions to Ask a College Rep

When exploring options for a college, it is important to engage the representatives with questions that will help you understand their school. Ultimately searching for a college is most about fit. Is the college you choose the best environment for your success—not only academically, but also spiritually and socially?

These questions provide ideas on how to best use your few minutes during the initial visit with a college representative. Be sure to add your own questions as well!

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1

Help me understand the difference between a private and public college or university.

There are differences between private colleges and public institutions. These differences impact the size of campus, classes, engagement of the faculty, price, and availability of scholarships and financial aid. Be sure to understand more about the advantages of private education in the rates of graduation, time of completion, and actual cost of education.

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2

What is distinctive about your school? What are the unique programs?

The representatives should be able to share with you the unique aspects of their particular school. Ask specifics about academics, spiritual formation, social and campus activities, and programs that are unique to their institution.

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3

What are the most popular majors at your school and why?

Ask about the most popular majors and understand what draws students to them. Do they have the best professors, the most unique programs? Even if the most popular majors are not your intended field of study, insight on the appeal of those programs can provide insight into the nuances of the school.

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4

How big are your classes and how involved are the professors?

The school representative should be able to describe the average class size and teacher/student ratio. Small private colleges often have more focused attention from the professors and most of the faculty are highly engaged in the life of their students. Ask specifics from the schools you are considering.

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5

I have heard that private colleges can be less expensive than public institutions, but your price is higher. Why?

Private institutions often provide attractive financial aid packages based upon need and merit (your grades, activities, etc.). You'll often be pleasantly surprised that a private institution is more affordable than a public school based upon available financial aid packages. Be sure to apply to multiple colleges to understand their true final costs.

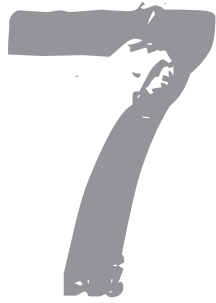
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6

What type of financial aid might I qualify to receive?

You won't know about your financial aid package until you apply and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). And academic scholarships won't be awarded until official paperwork is received. However, ask the college rep about what scholarships are available for a student with your credentials. Ask about the financial aid process at their school (i.e. separate applications, deadlines, timelines, etc.) It is important to apply to all of the colleges you are considering, regardless of their "sticker price." Doing so will help you make the best decision possible.

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At what rate do your graduates get jobs in their fields? What kind and how?

Be sure to ask about what is called “outcomes.” What percentage of graduates are employed in their field of study? How are the alumni of the school doing in their chosen careers? Are there programs at your institution (advising, career office, alumni networking groups) that help new graduates get jobs in their field?

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8

What do your students like most about your school? What do they like least?

Get honest feedback about what current students think of the campus. Learn about what changes are coming to the campus over the next few years (i.e. new programs, new buildings, etc.).

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What do students do for fun?

A great deal of your time will be out of class. Ask questions about what campus life is like and the activities in which students are engaged. Learn about the surrounding community. What is the community's relationship with the school and campus? What activities are available in town or nearby communities?

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10

What is residence life like on your campus? What percentage of students live on-campus vs. commuting to class?

Schools vary in their on-campus housing options and requirements for residential living by students. Ask about the dorms, about the community feel of residence life, about the interaction between dorms, etc.

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Print this page and bring it to the fair!

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3. What are the most popular majors at your school and why?
4. How big are your classes and how involved are the professors?
5. I have heard that private colleges can be less expensive than public institutions, but your price is higher. Why?
6. What type of financial aid might I qualify to receive?
7. At what rate do your graduates get jobs in their fields? What kind and how?
8. What do your students like most about your school? What do they like least?
9. What do students do for fun?
10. What is residence life like on your campus? What percentage of students live on-campus vs. commuting to class?

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