

The College Visit

A former admission counselor has said, the worst college visit is one where the prospective student is not prepared and does not say anything in the admission interview. It is best to go with a list of prepared questions. It makes a great impression. In addition, when asked a question, answer thoroughly and with more than a simple “yes”, “no”, or “I don’t know.” The following are some questions to consider asking when going on a campus visit:

Academics

1. What are the admission requirements?
2. Do certain majors require an additional admission process (e.g., audition, portfolio, review, etc.?)
3. Do you accept advanced placement credit or dual enrollment?
4. Is there an honors program or college?
5. Who teaches the classes: graduate assistants or professors?
6. What academic support services are available?
7. Is there a foreign language requirement for admission and/or graduation?
8. What kind of access is there to computers and technology on campus?
9. Are there opportunities to study abroad?
10. What kinds of services are available for students with undecided majors?
11. What features of their major make it special, unique, or particularly strong?
12. What is the average class size as a freshman and then in future years?
13. What is the student-faculty ratio?
14. How are academic advisors assigned? What kind of interaction will I have with my advisor?

Cost, Scholarships and Financial Aid

1. Including living expenses, what is the total estimated cost for one academic year?
2. Does it cost to park on campus? How do I apply for a parking permit? What scholarships are available? What was the average academic scholarship awarded last year? Is there a separate application for scholarships? If so, how can I get those applications?
3. Are the scholarships renewable? If so, is there a GPA requirement to maintain?
4. How many students receive some sort of aid?
5. What is taken into consideration for financial aid?
6. What types of work-study jobs are available?

Student Life, Housing, and Other Services

1. What extracurricular activities are available? What leadership opportunities are available?
2. Are there fraternities and sororities on campus? What percentage of the campus is Greek?
3. What is the diversity of the student body?
4. How do I get athletic and event tickets? Is there a cost for students?
5. What type of cultural opportunities are available on campus?
6. What percentage of students live on campus?
7. Am I required to live on campus?
8. Do students stick around on the weekends?

9. How are roommates assigned? If you have a problem with your roommate, how is it resolved?
10. Can I request a certain roommate?
11. What are the differences among the various residence halls?
12. What kinds of services are available for students with learning or physical disabilities?
13. What kinds of personal counseling and health services are available?
14. What is the university doing to make the campus safe?
15. Do I need a car to get around campus? Are basic services close to campus? Is there a public transportation system?
16. What is the surrounding community like?
17. What kinds of services are available for students who wish to take advantage of additional tutoring or extra help?
18. What kinds of internships, career counseling, and placement services are available?

The campus visit should be considered a time to look at the school and ask questions about programs, activities, cost and to see the setting which will help you make a well-informed decision if this may be the place for you. The campus tour is one of the best times to ask candid questions about issues the Admission Office may have only touched on.

Many tour guides are current students who can give you insight from a student perspective. Take advantage of the opportunity to ask them lots of questions.