

Get the Most out of a Campus Visit

You should prepare a list of questions before arriving at a college or university campus. Below are some suggestions by the [U.S. News Staff from the U.S. News and World Report 2023 Edition](#).

Admissions:

- Does “demonstrated interest” play a role in the admissions process?
- Do you have a test-optional policy? Are there any exceptions?
- Does legacy play a part in admissions and, if so, who is considered legacy?
- Do admissions interviews play a role in admissions and who conducts those interviews?
- Are there any majors for which enrollment is capped?

Academics:

- Are classes taught by professors or teaching assistants? How accessible are professors outside of the classroom?
- What is the average class size?
- How and when do incoming freshmen get advising on course selection for their first-semester classes?
- Who gets priority in course registration (grade level, honors programs, etc.)?
- How many classes do students take each semester?
- Are classes more theoretical or hands-on in nature?
- How easy is it to switch majors or schools within the university?
- What is the general structure of breakdown of requirements for most majors?
- Is study abroad an option and , if so, what percentage of students choose to study abroad?

Academic Support:

- What tutoring services are available? Are they free?
- How often do students meet with academic advisors?
- What types of resources are available for students with disabilities?

Financial Aid:

- What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- Are merit scholarship estimates built into the school’s net price calculator?
- How much of a family’s financial need does the college typically meet?
- How much extra money should I budget for costs beyond room and board, and tuition?
- Do financial aid packages remain the same over time or are they adjusted to reflect tuition increases?
- How do scholarships awarded by outside organizations affect a financial aid package?
- Do accepted students receive their financial aid award letter at the same time as their offer of admission or after?

Student Life: (These questions are meant to be asked of current students/tour guides)

- How did you get involved in life outside of the classroom?
- What are your favorite things to do/places to go/activities to participate in?
- How did you meet your friends and what do students do for fun?
- How does the school build community and foster cultural understanding?
- What are some of the main events and/or traditions?

Campus Housing and Community:

- Are students required to live on campus? What percentage of students live on campus?
- How do students apply for housing and select roommates?
- What do students say about living and dining on campus?
- What do the campus and community feel like from a safety perspective?
- How would you describe the surrounding community and its relationship to the college and college students?

Work and Research Opportunities:

- What types of research do students have access to?
- How does the school offer career guidance?
- Are internship or co-op opportunities available?
- What percentage of undergraduate students have an internship or research experience by the time they graduate?
- Is it common for first-year students to get those opportunities?

Student Outcomes:

- What is the 4 year graduation rate?
- What might hinder someone from graduating in 4 years?
- What is the retention rate from first to second year?
- What is the average level of student loan debt upon graduation?
- Are career advising services available to alumni?