

Factors to Consider When Choosing a College

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- What high school courses are required?
- Are entrance tests required? (ACT or SAT)
- What scores are acceptable?
- Is a certain grade point average or class rank required?
- Will my activities and school involvement be considered?
- Is there an essay on the application?
- Is there an early decision or early action plan?
- On what basis are applicants accepted?
- Are personal interview or letters of recommendation required?
- Do certain majors have special requirements?
- What percent of applicants are accepted?
- Can admission denials be appealed?
- What are the application filing deadlines and fees?

COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

- Where is the college located? (city, suburb, small town, rural setting)
- Is the college public, private, or church affiliated?
- What is the current student enrollment?
- What special or unique programs are offered?
- Does the college have general education requirements? What are they?
- Does the college have special programs for transfer students?
- What is the academic calendar (semesters or quarters)?

STUDENT POPULATION

- Do most of the students commute or live on campus?
- What types of student activities are there?
- Are sororities and fraternities on campus?
- What athletic programs are available?
- Does the college have a campus visitation program?
- Is housing available/guaranteed for freshmen?
- Is it housing available for all four years?

SOCIAL LIFE

- What is the average age of the student body?
- What is the male to female ratio?
- What % of students reside on campus?
- Are dorms co-ed or single sex?
- Is it a "suitcase" college where all the students leave on the weekend?
- What are the procedures for selecting a roommate?
- What are some of the rules and regulations that govern campus and dormitory life?

ACADEMICS

- What is the average class size? Largest? Smallest?
- How many students in last year's freshman class returned for their sophomore year?
- What was the grade point average for the freshman class last year?
- What is the college's procedure for student orientation, class placement, and scheduling?
- How is a faculty advisor assigned to students?
- What services does the school offer for the student who is undecided about a major?
- What are the most popular majors?
- Are students taught by full time faculty members, graduate assistants, or a combination of both?
- Is there an honors program? What are the qualifications for entry?

FINANCIAL AID

- What % of students receive financial aid based on financial need?
- What % of students receive scholarships based on academic ability?
- What would be a typical financial aid package for a freshman?
- What percent of those who apply for financial aid receive it?
- Will my financial aid be adjusted if my need increases?
- What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?
- Is there a tuition payment plan?
- Are there campus jobs available? Are there off campus jobs as well?

COST

- What are the costs for tuition?
- What are the costs for room and board? Are there other fees?
- How much did costs increase from last year to this year?
- Is there a difference in the costs for in-state and out-of-state students?
- Are accepted students required to place deposits for tuition and housing?
- By when must accepted students decide whether they will attend?
- When do the bills have to be paid?