

## Questions to Ask When Visiting Colleges

You won't ask all of these questions at every school—that would be overwhelming. Instead, review this list before each visit and select 5-8 questions that matter most to you. Copy them to your phone for quick reference during tours and info sessions.

Tip: Ask administrative questions (admissions, logistics) during information sessions, and ask experiential questions (student life, campus culture) during tours with current students. Take notes on your phone during walking tours or large sessions, but use pen and paper in small meetings with professors to show you're fully engaged.

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### **ADMISSIONS & ACADEMICS** *(Ask during info sessions or admissions meetings)*

- What type of student thrives here academically and socially?
- Which programs or majors are most competitive for admission?
- How does course registration work? Do students typically get their first-choice classes?
- How easy is it to change majors, and when do students declare?
- What is this school particularly known for? What are its academic strengths?

### **CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE** *(Ask students on tours, or professors in meetings)*

- What's the typical class size for freshman core classes? For upper-level major classes?
- When do students start taking classes in their major?
- Is the academic culture more competitive or collaborative? Do students help each other succeed?
- What's the teaching style mix—lecture, discussion, project-based, hands-on?
- Who typically teaches classes—professors, lecturers, or graduate TAs?
- What resources exist for academic support when you're struggling with material?

### **RESEARCH & CAREER PREPARATION** *(Ask in info sessions or department meetings)*

- What percentage of undergraduates participate in research, and when can they start?
- How does the career center support students with internships and job placement?
- What companies or organizations commonly hire interns from here?
- Where do graduates typically go—jobs, graduate school, professional programs?
- What study abroad programs are available, and how do they fit with different majors?
- What relationships exist between academic departments and local businesses/hospitals/organizations?

## **CAMPUS LIFE & CULTURE** *(Ask students on tours)*

- Where do freshmen typically hang out on weekends? What about upperclassmen?
- What does a typical weekend look like if you're not going home?
- What traditions make this campus unique?
- How would you describe the campus spirit and sense of community?
- What's the social scene like for students who aren't in Greek life?
- How do students balance academics with social life and activities?
- What campus amenities (gym, study spaces, makerspaces) do students actually use?

## **PRACTICAL LIVING** *(Ask students on tours or in info sessions)*

- What's dorm life really like here?
- How's the campus food? What dining options exist?
- How walkable is campus in all seasons?
- How safe do you feel on campus and in the surrounding area? What safety measures are in place?
- What transportation options exist (shuttles to town, airport, etc.)?
- How's the WiFi and technology infrastructure?
- Do students who live far away need to go home for short breaks?

## **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION** *(Ask during tours or info sessions)*

- How would you describe the diversity on campus (socioeconomic, racial, geographic, ideological)?
- What support exists for LGBTQ+ students and other identity-based communities?
- What are the current hot-button issues or conversations happening on campus?

## **IF YOU'RE MEETING WITH A PROFESSOR OR DEPARTMENT** *(Prepare 3-4 specific questions)*

Focus on questions unique to your academic interests:

- How does [specific major] compare to [related major] at this school?
- What minors or dual majors pair well with [your intended major]?
- What's the balance of theoretical vs. practical/hands-on learning in this program?
- What undergraduate research opportunities exist in this department?
- Where do students in this major typically intern or work after graduation?

## **IF YOU'RE A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT-ATHLETE** *(Ask the coach and current athletes)*

- How do student-athletes balance academics, practice, competition, and social life?
- What's the practice schedule during season? Off-season?
- Are professors accommodating when you miss class for competition travel?
- What's the team culture like? How strong is the fan support?
- Do athletes live or eat together? What's the team community like?
- What are you looking for in a recruit for this team?