

Questions for Students to Ask a College Representative

Having a prepared list of questions for college representatives can enhance a student's knowledge of the different schools she or he may be considering.

Following are some examples of the type of questions that can be helpful in the college search:

- What is the composition of the student body (e.g., from what states, how many undergraduates/graduates, male/female ratio, commuter vs. residential, racial and cultural backgrounds)?
- What percentage of students lives on campus? Is on-campus housing guaranteed for freshmen?
- Do you offer a wide variety of majors? Can students easily change their course of study? How many students double major or pursue more than one interest?
- What is the academic advising system like?
- Do faculty members teach courses, or are they taught mostly by graduate students? What is the average class size?
- What courses are required? Can I get credit for Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses?
- Are there opportunities for research, independent study, internships, and study abroad?
- What choices are there for extra-curricular activities?
- Are students happy? (A campus visit will answer this question, too.)
- Is there a public transportation system, making it easy for students to get around without a car?
- What is the neighborhood surrounding the campus like? How do students get involved in the local community?
- Do you offer academic scholarships? What is the application process for scholarships?
- What are the characteristics of this school that make it distinctive?

Maximizing College Fairs

— Advice for Your Students



A student chats with a representative.

College fairs are an extremely effective way to gain more information about a variety of colleges and universities. Here are some hints to help your students make the college fair experience productive and informative:

- Before the fair, print out labels that include your contact information, high school name, and graduation year, as well as any academic or athletic interests. These labels can be handed to each college representative in lieu of filling out a "request for information" card. Doing this will allow you to spend your time asking questions rather than writing!
- Provide a label or fill out a card for colleges even if you are already on their mailing list. Many colleges keep track of a student's contacts with them over time as an indication of his or her level of interest.
- Check when you arrive at the fair to see if there is a listing of the schools in attendance and identify the schools on which you want to focus.

- Stay open-minded about other colleges. This is a great opportunity to pick up more information and learn about unfamiliar institutions that may be a good match for you.
- Once you're at a table, feel free to pick up copies of brochures available to you.
- Think ahead about specific questions you would like to ask the college representative, who may be an admissions officer or an alumnus of the university. You will often gain information beyond what is found in brochures and/or the website.
- Keep in mind that many selective universities cannot provide minimum or preferred test scores or grade-point averages since their selection process is based on many other factors, as well.