

QUESTIONS TO ASK A COLLEGE

The following questions may be helpful in your college search. You can use this list as a guide or create your own list from these questions. Research these questions by going on the colleges' web sites, visiting college campuses and using the College and Career Center at NVHS. Ask people you know at college some of these questions, older siblings, college representatives and tour guides at the college campuses. Decide and find out what is **important** to you.

Admission Questions

- What are your admission requirements?
- What are your average GPA and ACT/SAT scores for admitted students?
- What are your acceptable ranges for a GPA and ACT/SAT scores? Is there a minimum? GPA or ACT/SAT for admission?
- What is your admit rate- the percentage of students that are admitted?
- What are your course requirements? Do you require a foreign language and if so how many years?
- What are your deadlines?
- Do you require letters of recommendation? If so, how many and from whom?
- If letters of recommendation are not required are they read as part of the application?
- Is there an essay or essays that are required? What are you looking for in the essay/essays?
- Do you have other requirements? SAT Subject tests? An ACT or SAT writing test?
- Are there any additional requirements for my major? Examples: Art- Portfolios, Theater/Music- Auditions, Nursing/Engineering- higher ACT/GPA.

Academic Questions

- Is the college public or private?
- What is the average class size and what is the student-to-faculty ratio?
- Do professors teach undergraduate courses, or do you use teaching assistants?
- Do you have lecture halls and what is your largest lecture hall or class size?
- Will I graduate in four years?
- What type of academic calendar do you use? (Examples: semesters, trimesters, January/May terms, quarters)
- Are faculty members easy to reach outside of class?
- Who will be my academic advisor?
- Do you accept AP credit and where can I get a list of the AP credit that is accepted?
- Are there undergraduate research opportunities available to me?
- What are some of your strongest academic programs?
- What percent of students attend graduate or professional school?
- What percent of students have jobs when they graduate or within 6 months of graduation?
- Is there an Honors Program and if so what are the requirements?
- Do you have the areas of study of interest to me?
- What types of programs are in place for undecided majors?
- What types of tutoring services are available and are they free?
- What types of academic, counseling, and career services are available to me?
- What types of services are available through your career placement center?

Student Body

- What is your undergraduate enrollment?
- Do you have graduate programs? What is your graduate enrollment?
- What is the male/female ratio?
- What is the diversity like on campus? Cultural, religious, geographic, ect?
- What do students do for fun?
- Do most students stay on campus on the weekends?
- Do you have the extra-curricular activities that are of interest to me?
- What is the school spirit like on campus?
- Is there a Greek system? Is there a significant "Greek presence" on campus?
- What are some of the most popular student activities on campus?
- What percent of students complete internships? What are some of your internship opportunities?
- What percent of students study aboard and where?
- What percent of the students live on campus and what percentage commute?
- What are retention and graduation rates?

Campus

- Where is the campus located?
- What is the setting like- rural, suburban, urban, "college town"?
- How far away is the campus?
- How easy is it to get home and which means of transportation is best?
- What is the campus atmosphere on a daily basis?
- What types of housing are available?
- Is the campus compact or spread out? How long does it take to walk from one side of campus to the other? Is there a bus system?
- What are some special features of the campus?
- How can I schedule a visit to your campus?
- What types of jobs are available on campus?
- What are the classroom, housing, theater, athletic, library, lab facilities like on campus? (Ask about the ones of interest to you!)
- What computer and other specialized facilities are available for student use?
- What does the community or area have to offer where the campus is located?
- What is the relationship like between the college and the community?
- Safety- How safe is the campus? What programs are put into place?

Financial Aid

- What is the total cost for one year at your institution?
- Do you have a fixed tuition rate?
- What types of scholarships and financial aid are available?
- How do I go about applying for scholarships to your school?
- Do you require additional forms with the FAFSA for financial aid? (Examples: the CSS Profile, or a college's own institutional form for financial aid)
- What percent of students receive some form of financial aid?
- What is the average loan package?
- What is the average debt for students when they graduate?

College Statistics

Comparison & Comments

(What to Ask, What to Know)

COLLEGE NAME	#1	#2	#3
	Comments	Comments	Comments
SETTING City, rural, suburb, small town, location/size of nearest city, lake, river, residential, industrial			
DISTANCE FROM HOME			
ENVIRONMENT Type of school (2-yr or 4-yr), co-ed, male, female, religious affiliation			
SIZE Undergrad enrollment, % traditional, % residential, student to faculty ratio, % PhD, physical size of campus			
ACADEMICS Majors offered, counseling/advisement, graduation rate in 4 years, calendar (semester, trimester, start date, breaks), accreditation, typical class size			
PROFESSIONAL Career counseling, job placement, grad school placement, professional organizations, internships			
INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES Curriculum, foreign study, exchange programs			
ACTIVITIES Athletics (varsity, intramurals), music, theatre, service, leadership, student government, clubs/organizations, religious, Greek life			
ADMISSION CRITERIA Test scores, rank, GPA, HS courses, essay, selectivity, deadlines, notification			
TOUR Time spent on campus, day of week, overnight stay			

College Visit

Comparison & Comments

(What to Look For)

COLLEGE NAME	#1	#2	#3
	Comments	Comments	Comments
JOBS ON CAMPUS			
EXPENSES Tuition, room & board, estimated total budget, application fee, deposits			
SCHOLARSHIPS			
FINANCIAL AID Deadline, required forms, % receiving aid			
FACILITIES Classrooms, library, laboratories, fine arts (theatre, music), chapel, dining halls/snack bar			
RESIDENCE HALLS Rooms, bathrooms, laundry, study rooms, co-ed hours, lounges, kitchen			
RECREATIONAL Student recreation center, workout facilities, game rooms, social areas, outdoors			
HEALTH CENTER			
CAREER CENTER Counselors, workshops, internships			
COUNSELING CENTER Academic, tutors, personal			
FACULTY CONTACT			
STUDENT CONTACT			
GENERAL APPEARANCE Buildings, grounds			