

# 25 QUESTIONS TO ASK A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF A COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

The first step is to visit and ask plenty of questions. The answers will tell you if the college you are considering meets your needs!



### ACADEMICS:

1. What can I study at your college?
2. Do you offer Certificates, Associate's degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and Master's degrees?
3. Is an internship, job-related assignment, or clinical rotation required at your school?
4. Do your professors have industry experience?
5. Do you offer an Honors Program?
6. Does your college have an Academic Support Center for tutoring?
7. What is your average class size?



### FINANCIAL AID:

16. What is the tuition?
17. What type of aid is available to me?
18. Are there scholarships, and how do I apply?
19. How much institutional aid is available?
20. Do you have a Financial Aid representative who can walk me through the steps?
21. Do you offer merit aid based on GPA?



### ADMISSIONS:

8. When is the application deadline?
9. What are the requirements for acceptance?
10. Do you require SAT or ACT scores?
11. When can I visit your campus?
12. When will I find out if I am accepted?



### STUDENT LIFE:

22. What activities do you offer, both online and on campus?
23. Do you offer any athletic programs?
24. Are there clubs or organizations to join?
25. What are your housing options?



### CAREER SERVICES:

13. Will your college assist me in creating an online professional profile?
14. Does your college host career and job fairs?
15. Will I have help finding a job when I graduate?

## INVESTIGATE MORE...

- The College website
- The College's social media sites
- Student blogs, videos and podcasts
- Student and graduate testimonials

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## 20 Questions to ask college representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college reps genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue:

1. What makes your college unique?
2. What academic programs is your college most known for?
3. How would you describe the kids that go there? Where do most of them come from?
4. Where do kids hang out on campus?
5. What happens on weekends—are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most kids go home?
6. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
7. What are the housing options for freshmen?
8. Do many students live off campus?
9. Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
10. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
11. What's the security like on campus?
12. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
13. What are the most popular majors?
14. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
15. What support services are available (academic advisers, tutors, etc.)?
16. Do I need to bring my own computer?
17. What's the faculty like? How accessible are they outside of class?
18. Are there opportunities for internships?
19. Is there job placement help for graduates?
20. Are any big changes in the works that I should know about?

*Source: Get it Together for College 2nd ed. (College Board 2011).*



# The College Essay

The college essay is your chance to use your voice to add to your college application. Many colleges require the essay as a way to hear from the student directly and to get a sense of who you are in your own words. It's a great opportunity to personalize your application beyond the grades, scores, and other information you've provided and can make a difference at decision time.

## 8 KEY POINTS THAT ADMISSION OFFICERS LOOK FOR:

- A command of the basics of good writing
- A direct answer to the essay question
- A strong opening paragraph that captures the reader's interest
- A comprehensive argument or narrative—make your point and stick to it
- A style that is comfortable for you and that is appropriate for the subject matter
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Correct data—check your facts, dates, and names
- Succinctness—pay attention to the recommended length

## WHAT THE ESSAY CAN DO FOR YOUR APPLICATION:

- Demonstrate your writing ability, a key component of success in college.
- Show that you have thought carefully about where you are applying and why you are a good match for the college, in your own words.
- Explain your commitment to learning and that you are willing and able to be a contributing member to the college community.
- Draw distinctions between you and other applicants, something that selective colleges especially rely on.

**An essay will rarely take an applicant out of consideration at a college, but it certainly can elevate an applicant in an admission committee's eyes.**

## MAKE IT PERSONAL:

- Often you will be asked to write about a personal experience, an achievement, or a person who has been significant to you. Go beyond the what or the who and dig into the how and the why.
- If you write about a trip or event, describe how this experience affected you and is meaningful to you.
- If you are writing about a person in your life, be personal and specific, not just sentimental. Explain how or what this person did for you that is important to you.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

**Revise, revise, revise.** Take the time to reread and revise. This process will help you develop a strong opening and a solid direction, and refine what you are trying to express.

**Show, don't tell.** Give readers such convincing evidence that they will come to the conclusion that you want. Provide detailed examples instead of providing a list of things.

**Be authentic.** Don't stress trying to write what you think they are looking for—just showcase who you are!

**Just get started!** Writing something meaningful can be a long process, so get started right away to allow for time to draft and revise. Be sure to write your essay long before the deadline.