

100 Questions About Colleges

Directions: use this list with “My Top 5 List of 100 Questions About Colleges Virtual Tour Data Sheet.” Select the top 5 questions that interest you the most from this list and add them to your data sheet. Try to pick questions from different categories to get a wide perspective on the colleges that interest you.

Every student has a different reason for choosing a college or university; it can be because of the small class sizes, distance from a major city or a great athletic reputation. Whatever the reason, virtual college tours can help you narrow down your options.

Below is a list of questions that will guide you through your virtual tours. These questions will allow you to discover unique aspects of campus, what you can expect from freshman year and ultimately, what school is the best fit for you.

BASIC INFORMATION: Ask introductory questions about the college to learn more

1. Where is the college/ university located?
2. Is it a rural or urban campus?
3. Public or private school?
4. Is the school religiously affiliated?
5. Does the school offer 2 or 4 year degrees?
6. How many students are in the freshman class?
7. What is the total student population?
8. Is it a diverse student population?
9. Does the university offer graduate level courses?
10. What is the male to female ratio?
11. What is the student to faculty ratio?
12. How many students are from out of state?
13. What is the average class size?

ADMISSIONS: Understand the school’s admissions process before you apply

1. When is the application deadline?
 - a. Is there an early application deadline?
 - b. Is there an application fee? If so, how much is it?
 - c. Does the school cover application fees for those who financial qualify?
 - d. Is there rolling admissions?
 - e. Do you have an online application?
 - f. When will I receive an admissions decision after applying?
2. Is an essay a required part of the application?
3. Does the college accept the Common Application?
 - a. Does the college require a supplemental essay?
4. Is the SAT, ACT, or TOFEL required for admissions?
 - a. What is the average SAT score?
 - b. What is the average ACT score?
 - c. What is the average TOFEL score?
5. What is the minimum GPA requirement to be considered for admission?
6. What is the average GPA of an accepted student?
7. What is the percentage of out-of-state students accepted?

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8. Is orientation required for accepted students?
 - a. Should my parents attend orientation?
9. Is there an honors program on campus?
 - a. If so, is there a separate application to apply?
 - b. What is the academic profile of an honors student?
10. Do you accept high school AP/IB credits?
11. Do you accept community college credits?

ACADEMICS: Explore the educational opportunities that are available and see if there is a program that interests you.

1. How many majors and programs are offered?
2. Are students required to declare a major?
 - a. If so, when do they have to declare by?
 - b. Do you recommend students declare a major before starting their freshman year?
 - c. Is it difficult to change majors?
3. Already know what you want to major in? Here are some great questions to ask:
 - a. Are there separate application requirements within a major?
 - b. Is there a different GPA requirement to be considered for a program than to be accepted to the college?
 - c. How competitive is it to get accepted into **XXXXXX** major?
4. Are there internship or research opportunities available for undergraduates?
 - a. Are internships required to graduate?
5. Is there a mandatory “co-op learning” program?
6. Are general education classes required?
7. Are classes taught by professors, TA’s, etc?
8. Are professors required to have office hours?
9. Do you offer online classes?
10. Is there an academic support center on campus?
11. What services are available for students with learning differences?
12. Do most students graduate in 4 years?
 - a. How many credits or hours are required to proceed to the next academic year?
 - b. Can I double major?
 - c. What percent of students get a job after graduation?

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE: Discover the on-campus and off-campus living options that are available to you.

1. Are freshman required to live on campus?
 - a. Are there freshman only dorms?
 - b. Is there an Honors Program dorm?
2. What are the housing options available (i.e. communal bathrooms for the floor, suites, etc.)
3. What will my dorm room come with?
 - a. Is bed-lifting available?
 - b. Is wireless internet available in the dorms?
4. May I select a roommate?
5. Will I have a Residential Advisor on my floor?

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6. Are there dining halls in the dorm?
7. Are freshman allowed to have cars?
 - a. If so, how available is parking to students?
 - b. How much are residential parking permits?
8. What percentage of students live on-campus?
9. When are students eligible to move off-campus?
 - a. What percent of students live off-campus?
10. How many dining halls are on campus?
 - a. What type of meal plans are available?
 - b. How late are the dining halls open?
 - c. Does my meal plan work off campus?
 - d. Are there any chain restaurants on campus?
 - e. Are there take-out options on campus?
 - f. Are there dining options for students with dietary restrictions?

STUDENT LIFE: Whether you are looking for a college down the street or across the county, you'll want to know about the campus community.

1. What is a unique feature of your campus?
2. How many clubs and organizations are on campus?
 - a. Can I start my own club?
3. What type of events are hosted on campus for students?
4. Is there Greek life?
 - a. Are sororities and fraternities prominent on campus?
5. What volunteer opportunities are available through the college?
6. Are there academic clubs on campus?
7. How active is the student government on campus?
8. Is there a large student center?
 - a. If so, what can you do there?
9. Are there club and intramural sports?
10. Is there a gym on campus?
 - a. If so, is there a fee for joining?
11. What percentage of students are student athletes?
12. Are there religiously based services on campus?
13. Are there campus job opportunities?
 - a. What about off campus job opportunities?
14. What activities are available to do off campus (i.e. skiing, hiking, etc.)?
15. Is public transportation available to students?
16. Where is the closest airport?

PAYING FOR COLLEGE: College is an investment in your future. Make sure that you understand the financial investment you are making before deciding on a college.

1. What is the tuition for in-state and out-of-state students?

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- a. Do you also offer regional tuition?
- 2. What types of scholarships are available?
 - a. Are there regional scholarships available?
 - b. Do you offer merit based scholarships?
 - c. Are there any full tuition scholarship programs available?
 - d. Can I qualify for scholarships after I have enrolled as a student?
- 3. Are work study opportunities available?
 - a. If so, how many hours are required?
- 4. What is the average price of books?
 - a. Do book prices differ depending on major?
- 5. Is freshman year tuition locked for all 4 years?
- 6. When is the FAFSA deadline?
- 7. Does the school accept outside loans?
- 8. Is there a credit union or bank on campus?