

My Admissions Sherpa

Questions to Ask on a Campus Tour

Taking a college tour is more than just seeing the buildings. It's about getting a feel for the environment and imagining yourself there. By preparing with these questions, you'll be able to gather the information you need to make a more informed decision about your future.

Academics and Professors 🏫

- How big are the average class sizes, and are introductory courses typically taught by professors or teaching assistants? This question helps you understand the student-to-faculty ratio and the level of personalized instruction you'll receive.
- What resources are available for academic support, like tutoring centers or writing labs?
- It's good to know what kind of help is available if you struggle with a class.
- Are there opportunities for undergraduate research or internships? This is crucial if you're interested in hands-on experience in your field of study.
- How accessible are professors outside of class, and do they hold regular office hours? This gives you a sense of how easy it is to connect with faculty.

Student Life and Campus Culture 🍷

- What are the most popular student clubs or organizations, and how easy is it to start a new one? This can give you an idea of the campus's social scene and how active the student body is.
- What's the social life like on campus? Is it more focused on campus-wide events, Greek life, or smaller gatherings? Understanding the social dynamic can help you determine if you'll be a good fit.
- What do students typically do on weekends? This is a great way to gauge whether the campus is a "suitcase school" where many students go home on weekends.
- What are the on-campus dining options like, and are there different meal plans? Good food and flexible meal plans can make a big difference in your daily life.

Housing and Residence Life 🏠

- What are the different types of housing available for first-year students? Some schools have suite-style dorms, while others have traditional hallway-style dorms.
- How does the roommate assignment process work? This is a common concern for incoming freshmen.
- Are students guaranteed housing for all four years? This is an important question, especially in competitive housing markets.
- What security measures are in place in the residence halls and around campus? Your safety is a top priority.

Financial Aid and Career Services 💰

- What's the process for applying for financial aid and scholarships? This is a key question for many families.

- How much does the average student debt look like after graduation? This can provide a realistic perspective on the financial commitment.
- What kind of career services are available, and what percentage of graduates are employed or in graduate school within six months of graduating? This question directly addresses the return on your investment in education.
- Does the school have a strong alumni network, and how do they help current students? A strong network can be invaluable for career opportunities after graduation.

Questions About Campus Resources and Policies

- What's the process for changing majors? This is a crucial question, as many students change their minds. Some schools make it easy, while others have strict requirements or limitations.
- How are students' mental and physical health needs addressed? Ask about the counseling center, health services, and what wellness initiatives are available. This is vital for long-term success and well-being.
- What are the school's safety and emergency protocols? Inquire about campus security, emergency alerts, and what resources are available in a crisis.
- What are the library's hours, and what resources does it offer beyond books? Libraries today are often hubs for study spaces, technology, and group project rooms.
- What kind of support is available for students with disabilities? This includes academic accommodations, physical accessibility, and other resources.

Questions About the Local Area and Community

- What's the relationship between the college and the surrounding town or city? Some schools are deeply integrated into their local communities, while others are more isolated.
- How easy is it to get around without a car? Ask about public transportation options, campus shuttles, and walkability.
- What do students do for fun off-campus? This can give you a feel for the local restaurants, shopping, and entertainment options.
- Are there opportunities to volunteer or get involved in the local community? This is important if you're looking for a school with a strong commitment to service.

Questions About Diversity and Inclusion

- How does the school support students from diverse backgrounds (e.g., first-generation, international, or LGBTQ+ students)? This can reveal a lot about the campus's commitment to creating an inclusive environment.
- What are some of the most popular cultural or identity-based student organizations? This helps you see how different groups are represented and celebrated on campus.
- How does the curriculum incorporate diverse perspectives and topics? Some schools have specific requirements for diversity-related courses.

Questions for Your Tour Guide (and Other Students)

- **What's a "hidden gem" on campus that most people don't know about? This can lead to interesting discoveries and show you a more personal side of the school.**
- **What's the one thing that surprised you most about this college? The answer might be a positive or negative surprise, but it's often very honest.**
- **Where do students go when they need a quiet place to study? The answer can be a library, a coffee shop, or a specific part of a building. This gives you a sense of the study culture.**
- **What's the social scene like on a Tuesday night? While weekends are important, understanding the social pulse during the week can reveal more about the daily student experience.**

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