

Questions for College Visits and Interviews

Here are some examples of questions to consider asking. Not everyone will ask all of the following questions and there will be questions that you will add specifically about your wants, needs, concerns, major, etc. We have tried to group the questions together by topic (admissions, academic, campus/social and financial).

Admissions

How competitive is the admissions picture? Do my abilities, coursework, and SAT or ACT scores match admissions standards? Are there special or higher requirements to get accepted into my major? Should I consider this college a “Reach” school?

It’s okay to ask for some estimate of your chances for admission but don’t expect any firm commitment at this time. Ask yourself, “What can I do to enhance my chances?”

If I do not get into this school and would like to transfer here, where do you recommend that I go for my first 2 years? Are their colleges whose credits all transfer to this school? Do you accept more transfer students from any particular 2 or 4-year school(s)? Are there courses that I should NOT take before I get here because they would not transfer?

This is also the time to verify that you are scheduled for and are in the correct courses for your junior and senior years for your particular major. Ask specifically about your math and science classes and if they meet the requirements for admission.

If I am undecided about a major, when would I need to declare a major at your school? What percentage of freshmen apply undeclared?

Do you require SAT Subject Tests for any programs/majors? If so, how many and do you require/recommend certain ones?

Will representatives from this college be visiting our high school? (Be sure to check in the Counseling & Career Center FIRST for this information!) Will they be visiting the Capital District at any time?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of Early Decision (ED) at your college? Early Action (EA)? Are they binding? Do you receive any type of financial aid information during this process? What happens if I don’t get accepted ED? Does my application get rolled into the regular applicant pool or do I just get outright denied admission?

How many recommendations do you require? Would you prefer them from anyone in particular?

Academic

Are there some unique or exceptional courses or professors within my major at the college? Compare programs between colleges; course-by-course, using their websites or college catalogs.

What percentage of students are enrolled in my major field as compared with other majors? What percentage of students in my major graduate in 4 years vs. 5 or more?

What are the future employment possibilities for graduates in my major? (Visit the Dept of Labor website for some of this information within NYS.) What percent get jobs in the same area as their college study? What percent were accepted to graduate school of those who applied (within my major)?

What is the typical class size? Which classes would be held in a large lecture hall?

What percentage of classes do Teaching Assistants rather than actual faculty teach?

What percent of freshman return for their sophomore year?

Campus/Social

What percentage of students leave campus on weekends? Is bus, train or air transportation easily available for travel?

What special attractions are available in the city/town in which the college/university is located?

What is the general atmosphere of the campus? Peaceful? Isolated? Preppy? Politically active? Urban? Rural? Suburban? What social events occur on campus? What organized sports?

Are freshman allowed to have a car? Are freshman required to live on campus? Is campus housing guaranteed for all 4 years if desired?

Is this campus known as a safe, crime free environment? What about the surrounding area/town?

How does the Career Placement Office serve students?