

# Questions to Ask on College Visits



If you have a chance to attend an [Open House](#), visit campus and/or to speak with a representative, take it! Avoid asking questions that can be answered with a quick Google or college website search. Take advantage of having a college representative right in front of you or online talking directly to you. Suggested questions to get you started are below:

## GENERAL

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- What's unique about this college? What separates it from other colleges in Virginia?
- What leads most students to choose this college?
- What are the college's most important values, and how does it demonstrate this to students?

## ADMISSIONS

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- Do students who participate in a college tour receive an application fee waiver? Are there other ways to get application fee waivers?
- What sort of student would succeed here?
- Can you tell me more about the application evaluation process? What qualities and experiences are you looking for in applicants?
- How large of a role do ACT/SAT scores play in admissions?
- Is there a different evaluation process for early versus regular decision applications?
- What percentage of students graduate in four years? Is that consistent across ethnicities?
- What is your acceptance rate in early decision/action versus your regular decision acceptance rate?

## FINANCIAL AID

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- Do you meet 100% of demonstrated financial need?
- What information do you require besides the FAFSA to award aid?
- How many students receive merit-based scholarships? How much is offered? Are there other scholarships that students can apply for at the time of application?
- How much debt do students typically have after graduating?

## ACADEMICS

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- What is the average teacher: student ratio?
- What kind of internships are available? Do a lot of students get internships? Paid?
- Are any departments known for their contributions to research?
- Are study abroad programs popular? Which ones in particular?
- Do most students study abroad through the college's program or an external program? Are they offered during the summer and/or during the school year?
- Does the college offer free academic support or tutoring?
- Is there a writing center to help with essays and research papers?
- Do the librarians help with research?

- Do students typically organize study groups or online discussion forums?
- Are there computer labs?
- How much freedom do freshmen have in choosing courses?
- Are students usually able to take their first choice courses?
- Is it easy to change your major?
- Do you offer funding for research or internships to undergraduates?
- Can undergraduates work with professors on research?
- Are there honors programs or capstone classes? If so, what are they like?
- If I transferred from a two-year to a four-year college, will you apply all credits from my associate degree? If I transfer before earning my associate degree, will my courses be applied? Who may I speak with about transfer credits?
- For AP courses, what score is required to earn credit?
- Do you accept Dual Enrollment coursework? If so, who may I speak with to see if my courses can be applied for credit?

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT/LIFE

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- How do you help students prepare for employment or grad school after graduation? What are some examples of success stories in the use of these services?
- Is there a student affairs office that supports multicultural students and inclusion?
- What are some big campus events, other than homecoming or alumni weekend?
- What transportation options are there around campus? Is it easy to get around campus or get off campus without a car?
- Do many students work on or off campus? How easy is it to find a part-time job?
- Do most students live on campus?
- How are the resident counselors? Do they plan social events for freshmen to get to know one another?
- Does the college provide accommodations for disabilities in the dorm and for classes? How do I request assistance?
- Can you talk about the *fill-in-the-blank* club (whatever you're interested in!)?
- In what ways do students connect with and volunteer in the surrounding community?
- How easy is it to get an appointment with health services? What services are offered?
- Are there social orientation programs for freshmen?
- What are some examples of guest speakers that have presented on campus? Have there been any controversial speakers? If so, how were they received on campus?
- How are freshman advisors assigned?
- What activities and services do you offer to help transfer students learn about and get involved in campus life?

Questions were compiled from the following sources:

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/good-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-tour>

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/slideshows/5-questions-minority-applicants-should-ask-during-a-campus-visit?slide=12>