

Parent/Student Discussion Points

The list below contains some discussion points we thought would help in determining if/what college is right for you. We realize that there are a lot of questions to ponder, but please take the time to discuss these points. There is no right or wrong answer to any of these questions. We ask that you try to determine what is best for you, your situation, and your future. Parents, remember that this conversation is about what is the best option(s) for your son and not necessarily for you. Parents, remember that your parent's might actually make good suggestions. They have your best interest at heart. They want what is best for you and are your best source of support.

- Discussing college, trade schools, starting a business, or getting a job
 - When all is said and done, what career do you want to have?
 - Does your career path require a two or four year degree?
 - Can you go to a technical or trade schools instead of a four year university?
 - If you choose not to go to college now, how hard would it be to go to a college in the future?
 - If you decide to change careers in the future, would it require you to go to college?
 - Have you considered a going for your Associate's degree at a two year college and then deciding if you want to continue on with a four year degree?
- Choosing a college/university
 - Do you prefer a two or four year college?
 - Are you thinking of a private or public college?
 - Do you have a preference or not?
 - Would the costs be the more or less?
 - How close to home do you want to be?
 - Close enough for meals and laundry, to visit on weekends, or to only come home on breaks?
 - Do you want a new setting or something you are used to?
 - Do I want an urban, suburban, or rural type of setting?
 - Will it cost more to go further from home or will it be more affordable?
 - If you go out of state, what region of the country do you want to go to?
 - Is it close to an airport?
 - How hard would it be to travel home?
 - Will it cost more because I am away from a major hub?
 - What will the weather be like?
 - Do I need to concern myself with tornados, earthquakes, blizzards, or hurricanes?
 - Do you have any allergies that may be affected?
 - What time zone is it in?
 - Will I need winter clothes as well as spring and summer clothes?
 - What is the climate? Cold? Rainy? Humid or Dry?
 - Does this college have the degree I am looking for?
 - Is the college accredited?
 - What are the admission requirements and deadlines?
 - What is the cost of tuition, fees, room & board, books, travel, etc.?
 - What housing options are there?
 - Will I be required to live on campus?
 - Is there a wait list?
 - Are the dorms coed?
 - Are there suites, single rooms, or dorm type living? Will I have to share a bathroom?
 - Are there meal plans?
 - Are they required?

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- What facilities are available for eating?
- What are the hours?
- Will I be allowed to cook in the dorm?
- Can I bring a refrigerator, microwave, or toaster?
- What other on campus food/stores are available?
- What is the average class size?
 - Are they taught by professors or grad assistants?
 - How widely used are teaching assistants?
- Will I have an academic advisor?
 - Will they help with course selection?
- How many degree programs are offered?
 - In what areas?
 - If I am not certain what I want to study, how hard will it be to choose from the selection of majors available?
 - How hard would it be to change majors?
- What are the “general education” requirements?
- How easy is it to transfer credits from or to a community college?
- Is there an Honors program? What are the requirements?
- How much time do students typically spend on homework?
- Is there a career center on campus?
 - Are Internships available?
 - Job placement services?
 - Work-Study Scholarships?
- Are there study abroad opportunities?
- What percentage of students return after their freshman year?
- What percentage graduate? What is the average length of study?
- How diverse is the population?
- What is the student vs. faculty ratio?
- What tutoring programs are offered?
- Is there a writing center?
- Are learning disability resources available?
- Are computer and printing services available on campus?
- Are placement exams required? If so, what are they?
- What is the average student age?
- What type of security is on campus? What is the crime rate in the area? Is security available after dark? How secure are the residences? Will your car/bike be safe?
- What kind of student life is available at this college? (Good questions for tour guides and current students you might know)
 - How accessible are the professors? Who is your favorite? Is that professor typical or the exception?
 - Why did you select this school?
 - How did you make the transition from HS to college? What was most difficult?
 - How many students were in your freshman class?
 - Do professors mostly lecture? Or do they use technology or other ways to make learning interactive?
 - How easy or hard is it to get the classes you want?

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- What are considered strong majors at this school?
- How many hours per week do you study?
- What is the quality of the library and research facilities?
- What % of students lives on campus?
- Are you allowed to have your own car on campus?
- Do most students go home on weekends?
- What % of the student body belongs to a sorority or fraternity?
- Are building well kept? Are there plans for new facilities?
- Do upper classmen have 1st choice when selecting classes or dorms?
- Is the campus and/or dorm wireless? Is the computer network up-to-date?
- Are laundry facilities available? Cost?
- How easy is it to get around campus? Can I get anywhere by walking? Is there a campus shuttle? Is there plenty of parking? Is the campus spread out over many acres?
- Are dorms rooms adequate in size and suitable for study?
- What do students do on the weekends?
- Are there events for parents/siblings?
- What are big campus traditions? How much participation in athletics? School spirit?
- What kinds of activities, intramural sports or clubs are popular?
- Is there a recreation and/or fitness center? Is it in good shape?
- Are there religious organizations on campus? Are there churches nearby? What denominations?
- What off-campus housing options are available near campus? Are there rules regarding off-campus living?
- Is there much to do off-campus? Movies, sporting events, concerts, etc.
- How easy is it to get around if you don't have a car? Are bikes a good option? Long boards?
- Is there a grocery store nearby?
- What kind of area is the college in?
 - Is there public transportation? Airport? Bus station? Train?
 - Is outdoor recreation nearby?
 - Mountain trails
 - Hiking
 - Swimming
 - Climbing
 - State parks
 - Is this a big city or small town?
 - Big size school in a small, medium or big town?
 - Medium size school in a small, medium or big town?
 - Small size school in a small, medium or big town?
 - How far away from home are you?
 - How quickly and easily can you get home or your parents get to you in the event of an emergency? Will it be a great expense because of the location?
 - Are there others students at this school from your area? (great for carpooling)
 - Is employment available in the area?
 - Is the school prepared for emergencies?
 - Is there enough to do on-campus?
 - Is there a good variety of off-campus activities?

Parent/Student Discussion Points

- Will you be participating in athletics, such as football?
 - Does this school offer that sport?
 - Are there athletic scholarships available?
 - Are there other types of grants available if there are no athletic scholarships?
 - How serious is the school football program? Or other sports program you may be interested in?
 - What type of equipment is used? Does it meet safety standards and up-to-date?
 - Is the athletic facility well-maintained? Is it new? If not, are they planning an upgrade?
 - Is the athletic weight room a separate facility? What is its condition?
 - Is there a therapy center for athletes?
 - Is there a practice field? Is it grass or artificial turf? Is it well maintained?
 - How many coaches, assts, trainers, etc. are on the team's staff?
 - Are there separate position coaches?
 - Will athletes be practicing during inclement weather, such as rain or snow?
 - Is there an indoor practice facility?
 - Is this college in the NCAA or NAIA?
 - What division?
 - What is the training schedule?
 - Summer?
 - Fall?
 - Winter?
 - Spring?
 - Breaks?
 - Is there separate housing for athletes?
 - What is the required GPA for eligibility?
 - What courses must be on your transcript for admission? What placement tests, if any?
 - Does the athletic program get special consideration when scheduling classes?
 - Is there a tutoring program available for athletes?
 - Are there any special requirements for athletes?
 - Study hall?
 - Bed checks?
 - GPA?
 - Course load?
 - Practice times?
- When visiting colleges and taking tours refrain from asking these types of questions?
 - Do not ask your tour guide or staff member personal questions about themselves? Let them volunteer information.
 - Do not ask your guide to predict what financial aid you might need or receive?
 - Do not ask you guide to help you get admitted?
 - Don't ask questions that will force you divulge personal information?
- After visiting a college, consider these questions.
 - Were campus staff members and students friendly? Was I comfortable interacting with them?
 - Was the campus a good size for ME?
 - How were the residence halls? Too loud? Too quiet? Large enough rooms?
 - How did I like the athletic facilities? Coaches? Players?