

20 Questions to Ask College Representatives

Whether you meet them at a college fair or on a campus visit, college representatives genuinely enjoy talking to high school students and answering questions about their college. The following questions will help start a good dialogue.

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1. What makes your college unique?
 2. For what academic programs is your college known?
 3. How would you describe the students at your college? Where are most of them from?
 4. Where do students hang out on campus?
 5. What happens on weekends — are there things to do on campus or in town, or do most students go home?
 6. Are fraternities and sororities a big part of campus life?
 7. What are the housing options for freshmen?
 8. Do many students live off campus?
 9. Is there a sports complex or fitness center?
 10. What are the most popular clubs and activities?
 11. What's the security like on campus?
 12. What's the surrounding area like? Is it easy to get around?
 13. What are the most popular majors?
 14. How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?
 15. What support services (academic advisers, tutors, etc.) are available?
 16. Do I need to bring my own computer?
 17. What's the faculty like? Are they accessible outside of class?
 18. Are there opportunities for internships?
 19. Is there job placement help for graduates?
 20. Are there any big changes in the works that I should know about?

How to Get the Most Out of a College Fair

GOING TO A COLLEGE FAIR

- Take a pen and a small notebook.
- Take a bag to carry the brochures you pick up.
- Print out some address labels with your name, address, phone number, email address, high school, and year of graduation. Spend your time at the college tables asking questions, not filling out contact cards!
- When you arrive, check out the floor plan and find out where the tables for your top choice colleges are located so you can go directly to them.
- Write down your most important questions in advance so you don't forget them.
- Check on whether any information sessions, such as financial aid, are being offered. Interested? Budget your time accordingly.
- Jot down notes about a college while your memory is fresh, such as right after visiting the table.
- Pick up the business cards of any representatives you talk to, so you can contact them if you have any more questions.

AFTER YOU GET HOME

- Make a point of going through the materials and your notes within one week after the fair. You'll probably remember more about your conversations with college representatives while the memories from the fair are still fresh.
- Follow up with any college that interests you by contacting the admission office to ask further questions and, if possible, plan a visit to the campus.

Source: Associated Colleges of the Midwest (acm.edu).