

YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

Interview Do's & Don'ts and College Interview Questions



Do

- Find out whether the college recommends that students come for an interview.
- Inquire as to whether the interview is informative or evaluative.
- See if an alumni representative in your area can grant an interview if you cannot travel to the school.
- Arrive 10 minutes early and dress the part. Know where the interview will be held and dress on the conservative side.
- Demonstrate what you will bring to the campus community through examples.
- Reveal who you really are. Admissions officers want to get to know you as a person, not a set of statistics.
- Highlight your passions and interests – discuss why your accomplishments were meaningful and what you got out of them.
- Review a list of frequently asked questions and think through the issues ahead of time.
- Review your application materials before you go. They may reference something that you wrote – make sure it is fresh in your mind.
- Be true to yourself, who you really are and what you believe in.
- Ask the interviewer about their experiences at the college.

Don't

- Show up unannounced and expect an interview.
- Be too early.
- Sound like you have rehearsed a speech. The interview should be like a conversation. Be natural, be yourself and be optimistic.
- Be afraid to show your sense of humor.

- Show up with no knowledge of the school and its programs.
- Come unprepared without questions & impressions about the college.
- Forget to get the name and title of the person interviewing you and follow-up with a well-written thank you note, not an email.
- Tell the interviewer why the college will be lucky to have a brilliant student, such as you.
- Overdo the makeup, cologne, or jewelry and don't chew gum.
- Answer questions with just a yes or no. Try to keep your answers as conversational as possible.
- Focus on your negatives. Remember that problems can be viewed as challenges – demonstrate how you overcame adversity if necessary.
- Ask general questions that can be found in the school brochure or on the website.

TYPICAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What high school courses have you enjoyed most and why?
- Why are you interested in this college?
- What will you bring to the campus?
- What have you contributed to your school/community?
- What extracurricular activity is most meaningful to you?
- Is there anything on your transcript you would like to explain?
- If you could change something about your high school, what would it be?
- What teacher has inspired you the most and why?
- What other colleges are you considering?
- What would you do if you couldn't go to college?
- What experiences in your life have led to the biggest changes for you?
- What current events do you find interesting?
- Name three books you have read lately and tell why you liked them or not.
- Tell me about your family.
- What is your favorite movie?
- What three adjectives would you use to describe yourself?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- How would you describe your two best friends?
- How would they describe you?
- What are your goals and aspirations?

- What do you see yourself doing in ten years?
- What would you like to talk about?
- Do you have questions about the college that I can answer?

SAMPLES OF STUDENT QUESTIONS

- Will I be able to explore courses before choosing a major?
- What kind of grades do I need for the major I am interested in?
- How large are introductory classes?
- Does the average student graduate in four years?
- What is there to do on weekends?
- Will I fit in if I do not join a sorority/fraternity?
- What are the main political/social issues on campus?
- What was your experience like on campus?
- Is there anything you would have done differently?
- Do Teaching Assistants teach many classes?
- How would you describe the relationship between the college and the local community?
- Is the undergraduate program supported as well as the graduate program?
- How accessible are the professors?
- What is the job placement rate after graduation?