
College & University Tours 101: Suggested Questions To Ask

Admission

- How many students are typically accepted through early admission or the waitlist?
- What's the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate?
- What's the four-year graduation rate? Six-year graduation rate?
- Are things like family legacy considered in admission?

Financial aid

- What forms of financial aid are offered, and what's the average amount?
- Do financial aid packages typically change much after freshman year?
- What percentage of students (not just how many students) receive financial aid?
- What's the average percentage of financial need (not just how much aid) that is met?
- What kind of academic and need-based scholarships are offered?
- Where can I find a list of the campus-based Scholarships available to incoming Freshman? ****Especially those that are merit-based & full scholarships for all 4-years!**
- Is there a work-study program? If so, what jobs are available?

Academics

- What's the academic vibe like on campus?
- How often do Teacher Assistants (TA's) teach classes?
- What are midterms and finals like?
- What reputation does my major have?
- What student-faculty research opportunities exist for undergraduates?
- What kinds of mentoring and advising relationships do students and faculty have?
- Can my tests (AP, SAT Subject Tests, etc.) be used for credit?
- What is the student-faculty ratio in my major specifically?
- How many students are in the typical freshman classes? What about upper-level classes?
- What's the teaching typically like: innovative, discussion-based, project-oriented, mostly lectures?
- How involved are academic advisors?
- What tutoring services are available to students? Does _____ major have its own tutoring services or supports?

Academics Continued...

- Are there any academic “extras” here like an honors college, learning communities, first-year interest groups, and major or academic achievement–related fraternities and sororities? How many students participate in these “extras”? **Ex:** Engineering Fraternity? Chemistry Honors Society?
- Are any art or music practice spaces available to non-majors?
- What are the campus computer labs like, and is there IT assistance?
- How many quiet spaces are there for studying?
- Does the school have access to any additional library collections (local or other school libraries)?
- Does the school collaborate with any nearby colleges and universities on any shared-enrollment arrangements? **Ex:** Dual-degree programs; 5-year Bachelors-Master’s Degree Program

Questions for the Students You Meet

- Why did *you* choose this college?
- What are your favorite and least favorite things about going here?
- How friendly and welcoming is the campus?
- How accessible are professors typically?
- What are the strong majors and what are the weak majors?
- How hard do you have to work to get good grades?
- How easy is to get around campus or off campus? Are there places within walking distance or do you need a car?
- What is the relationship between the college and neighboring community like?
- How’s the dining hall food? (Pro tip: eat it!) And what are the meal plans like?
- Does the dining hall cater to food allergies or other special dietary needs?
- What other dining options are there on and around campus?
- What’s the social vibe like on campus?
- What do students do on weekends? Do they all go home or hang around on campus?
- What do students do for fun on campus and off?
- How involved are students in extracurriculars, and which activities are most popular?
- What’s Greek life like (Fraternities & Sororities), and how do students feel about it?
- How culturally diverse & aware is the campus? What resources does the college have in place to promote & support cultural/ethnic diversity? ****This is especially for non-HBCU’s.**

Campus & Dorms

- What's the res-life vibe like?
- What's the campus crime rate like?
- What's the school's policy on sexual harassment? Reported related-incidents/crimes?
- What does the college do to ensure campus safety in general? What about in the event of an emergency? Does this campus have an Open or Concealed-Carry policy?
- How large is the campus security force? Does it patrol the campus regularly?
- How are residence halls secured?
- Is there any sort of late-night shuttle service?
- How many dorms are there, and how do they differ?
- Are the dorms spread through the campus or clustered in one area?
- What are the off-campus living options, and what do they typically cost?
- What's the availability of WiFi like on campus?

Health, Wellness & Fitness Center

- What services does the health center offer?
- What kinds of counseling and/or mental health services are available?
- Are there any stress-relief programs during midterms and finals?
- How popular is the gym, and how late is it open?
- What kind of sports equipment does the campus have? Is it well-kept?
- Do non-varsity players have access to all athletic facilities?
- How active is the student body in terms of sports?
- How popular are campus sporting events amongst fans?

Career Center

- Where have students interned, and are there any formal internship arrangements with local companies?
- What's the job placement rate for last year's graduating class?
- How long does it typically take recent grads to find a full-time job in their career field?
- What career advising services are offered, and how long are they available to graduates?
- What networking or career fairs are held each year?
- How accessible and involved are alumni?
- What kinds of on-campus or local part-time jobs are available?

