STARS COLLEGE NETWORK

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Finding the College that Works for You

Questions to Ask Yourself Before Beginning the College Search Process

Understanding yourself and your preferences will help you tailor your college search process to include schools that are a good match for you. Consider each question carefully and be honest with yourself when answering them.



Starting the College Search Process

Now that you have an idea of what you want and need, it's time to narrow down the list! You may find that through the search process you learn even more about what you want and need out of college. Below are some resources and tips, plus some great questions to ask college admissions counselors.

College Search Resources

- College Scorecard (https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/) - A college search tool offered by the federal government.
- College Board (https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/) - BigFuture offers a college search tool
- College Websites - The best place to find the most up-to-date information about the college you're interested in!
- In-Person Opportunities - These are campus visits, college fairs, and pre-college programs.
- Virtual Opportunities - These include virtual tours, phone calls, Zoom calls, and emails.

Questions to Ask to Determine College Fit

After considering what you are looking for in a college, use the following questions to learn more about how a college matches your preferences and interests. These are great questions to ask at a college fair, when emailing a college admissions counselor, or calling the admissions office. All admissions offices are ready and excited to answer your questions!

10 Surface Level Questions to Ask a College Representative

1. What are your most common majors?
2. What kind of admissions process does your college use? Holistic? Guaranteed? Other?
3. What are some important deadlines to consider?
4. What are some of the support systems offered to incoming students? (disability, academic, well-being)
5. Where do your students come from?
6. Do students typically live on or off campus?
7. What kinds of extracurricular activities or clubs are available?
8. Does your school accept college credit earned in high school? (AP, IB, dual enrollment)
9. Does your school offer financial aid, such as scholarships or grants?
10. What kind of environment and climate is your college in? (community, location, weather, etc.)

10 Deeper Questions to Ask a College Representative Later in a Conversation

1. Would you consider any majors or programs "hidden gems"? If so, which ones?
2. What opportunities or resources exist in [major] at your school?
3. What sets your school apart from other colleges?
4. What is the relationship between your college and the surrounding community?
5. What supports are there on campus for students with [identity/ies]?
6. How does my college credit earned in high school affect my timeline to graduation?
7. What does your college do to make sure students are safe on campus?
8. What things drive school spirit?
9. What are ways students get around campus? How about going home?
10. Are there any people who are pillars in your campus community?