

The Interview

Although some colleges require an interview, you will find that many do not. It is strongly recommended, however, that you plan both a college visit and an interview at each of the colleges to which you will apply. The interview process will afford you the opportunity to:

- a. Visit the school at which you may spend four years of your life.
- b. Talk to admissions, staff, and students and help verify your choice.
- c. Provide for an opportunity to share a personal side of you that may not be addressed in the application.

When planning an interview, keep the following in mind:

- a. Plan a time when high school is not in session but college is.
- b. Request a definite date and time, but allow for an alternate.
- c. Advise the admissions office of any delays or cancellations.
- d. Avoid "drop-in" visits.
- e. Learn as much about the college as you can prior to the interview.
- f. Go alone - parents often will transport and should have the opportunity to visit the school with you but the admissions interview is "your time" with the admissions staff. Often separate meetings are scheduled for parents.
- g. Be honest at all times.
- h. Dress neatly.
- i. Be familiar with your academic background & testing. Take an "unofficial transcript" with you.
- j. Be prepared to tell why you have chosen this particular college and what you expect to get out of four years there.
- k. Thank the interviewer for his/her time. Follow up the visit with a thank you note.

During the interview process, you will be asked questions about your background, interests, hobbies, goals and why you are applying to that particular college. Approach this interview as a conversation rather than an "evaluation" of you as a prospective student. Interviews are intended to allow both you and the school personnel to learn more about one another on a more personal basis. Both you and the school need to be concerned that the college is more than just an "academic fit".

Questions that you might ask during an interview:

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the program you are interested in?
2. What is the average class size?
3. How do I compare academically with students attending this school?
4. What extra-curricular activities are there on campus?
5. What are the facilities like?
6. What percentage of students are placed in employment (within their major) after they graduate?
7. What percentage of students receive financial aid? How available are campus jobs under work-study and under individual initiative?
8. What types of research facilities are on campus? (e.g. library, lab facilities, computer availability)?
9. What are the school policies regarding freshman vehicles?
10. What types of academic and emotional support services are available?
11. Can freshmen select their own roommates?
12. What kinds of living accommodations are there? Dorms? Foreign language or theme (chem free, etc.) houses? Campus apartments? Percentage of students that live on campus?

Questions that you might be asked during an interview:

1. How did you first hear about our college?
2. What are your career goals - long and short term?
3. What is your intended major? Minor?
4. What are your interests outside of school?
5. What accomplishments or activities in which you have participated have had a particular effect on you or your life?
6. What are your academic strengths and weaknesses?
7. How familiar are you with this college and its programs?
8. What are your priorities in selecting a college? How does this college fit those priorities?
9. Are there activities in which you hope to become involved while here?
10. How do you see yourself contributing to our college community?
11. What have you read most recently? Did it make an impression on you? The way you think? Your approach to life?
12. How do you see yourself contributing to your community and society in the future?