

Questions to Ask When Choosing a College

Education & Employment Information Center
Office of Higher Education

800/842-0229
www.ctohe.org

Selecting the college best suited to you can be an overwhelming experience. With so many to choose from, offering such a rich array of options and programs, you may likely wonder where to start.

A good first step is to find out which colleges offer programs of study in your areas of interest. You can learn which programs are offered by Connecticut colleges and universities by searching the Office of Higher Education's academic program search: www.ctohe.org/heweb/ProgramSearch.asp. To explore Connecticut colleges in depth and submit online applications, go to www.CTMentor.org.

Once you have narrowed your selection, the following questions may help further inform your decision. Many of these questions can be answered by visiting college websites. Others you may want to pose to a college representative while visiting a campus. For general guidance on applying to college, please call the toll-free **Education & Employment Information Center Hotline**, or e-mail us at edinfo@ctohe.org.

Admissions Questions

- What are the college's criteria for admission?
 - ✓ SAT/ACT Scores
 - ✓ SAT II (how many, which subjects)
 - ✓ High School Courses
 - ✓ Essay
 - ✓ Interview
 - ✓ Letters of Recommendation
 - ✓ Extra Curricular
 - ✓ Additional
- How many students applied for admission last year?
- What percent of these applicants were selected for admission?
- What percent of the applicants actually enrolled?
- When will I know when I'm accepted?
- How many students were on the wait list last year?
- Did you admit students from your wait list?
- How was that selection handled?
- What percentage of wait-listed students were offered admission?
- Will applying for financial aid affect my chances of admission?
- Does your college have a process for student transfer? If so, who should I contact and how early?

- Does your college have a process for student transfer? If so, how do I learn which of my courses may count toward transfer?
- What other colleges do you compete with for students each year?
- How many students leave after their freshman year?
- What type of orientation program does your college conduct for new students?
- Does your college have any special programs for first generation college applicants?
- Do you admit students on a rolling admissions basis or a fixed application date?
- What is the application deadline?
- Does your college offer early action or early decision?
- I am considering majoring in _____ in college. Right now I am taking _____ courses, (AP, Honors, etc), in high school. What do you suggest I do to improve my chances of being accepted into your college?
- Are interviews required in the admissions process?
- Do you have overnight programs for future students?
- Does your college offer pre-collegiate summer programs?
- Does your college accept the common application?

Financial Aid Questions

- What are your college's financial aid deadlines for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS?
- What scholarships does your college offer students?
- What percentage of students receive some form of financial aid?
- What is the balance between loans and grants?
- What is the average cost to attend your college once you subtract the average financial aid package from total tuition, room, board, and fees?
- Are there monthly payment plans available?
- Do you require the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile?

Housing Questions

- Are freshmen all grouped together on campus?
- What type of housing is assigned to freshmen? Are they guaranteed on-campus housing?
- How is housing handled after freshman year?
- Does the college assist students in finding off-campus housing?

- What meal plans are available?
- Are meals offered on Saturday and Sunday? What time of day do they begin?

General Questions

- What is the major issue on campus currently?
- What is the average class size the first year? And after?
- How often is the student newspaper published? How can I get a recent issue?
- How many students graduate in four years?
- What are the distinctive/unique features of your college?
- What type of calendar year does the college follow? (4-1-4, 3 terms, block, etc.) What are the advantages/disadvantages of your college's calendar approach?
- What teaching methods are used in various classes ... large lecture or discussion? What is the average size of large lectures?
- What sizes are the classes approximately? (If you visit an actual class, estimate how many students are in attendance.)
- Do freshmen have an opportunity to take some courses from the college's major professors?
- Who teaches freshmen courses: graduate assistants or permanent staff?
- Library facilities? Hours? How much time do students spend there?
- Wireless environment? In library? In dorm room? Where available?
- How approachable are faculty and administration members?
- How active and effective is the student government?
- What special interest groups/clubs, publications, teams in your field are active on campus?
- What percentage of students is from out-of-state? How many students come from my state?
- Will I need a car?

Program Questions

- Do you offer _____ (major you're interested in)?
- What opportunities exist for work study or part-time jobs in the community or on campus for practical application of classroom experiences?
- How many hours of homework/preparation are expected for each hour of class?
- What is the level of interaction between faculty and students?

Sports Participation Questions

- What opportunities exist for participation in an organized program of intercollegiate/intramural sports?
- Do you offer _____, (sport of your interest)?
- NCAA level?
- Team record?
- Campus contact person _____

Fraternity/Sorority Questions

- Are fraternities/sororities the dominant way of life on campus?
- What is the ratio of Greeks to independents?
- How well organized are the independents?
- Do I have to belong to a fraternity/sorority to be a campus leader?
- What social and academic benefits would I derive from membership in a fraternity/sorority or living in a cooperative house?

On-Campus Religious Questions

- Is there any particular orientation towards religion on campus?
- What types of religious services are offered?
- If not on campus, what is the nearest location of my denomination?
- Are there any on-campus religious clubs?
- If the college is affiliated with a religious denomination, are all students required to take religion courses?