

ABOUT THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

The college interview may take place on campus, in your area, or via Skype. Some schools have admission officials do interviews while others rely on alumni. Large public schools are not likely to give individual interviews; smaller colleges are more likely to offer or require interviews.

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

1. Research the college before you are interviewed. Know/ review all of the following:
 - a. What tests (ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests) and high school courses are required.
 - b. The college's mission statement and general curriculum, especially for the first year. Take the virtual tour even if you have visited campus.
 - c. The particulars of the application process.
 - d. Admission statistics: overall rate, average GPA and test scores of admitted students.
 - e. Majors, minors, and concentrations offered that interest you.
 - f. Financial aid and/or work-study programs.
 - g. Opportunities for student research.
 - h. Campus newspaper(s) run by students. These are usually available online.
2. Prepare for questions that you might be asked.
3. Develop a set of questions to ask and print or write out a copy of your questions.
4. Know why you are interested in the college and be able to articulate it. Don't do the interview if you don't know.

DURING THE INTERVIEW

1. Be yourself.
2. Dress and act appropriately. Don't chew gum. Don't wear your earphones. Turn cell phones off.
3. Realize that this interview is about you as a whole person, not only about you as a student. When asked to talk about yourself, don't talk only about grades and academics.
4. Ask your questions. See the notes below.
5. If the college is your first choice, tell them. If you are asked if a college is your first choice and it is not (or if you are unsure), state that it is among those you are considering.
6. If you do not already know the name and have contact information for the interviewer, get the information.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

1. Write a few notes for yourself as soon as you can. Include both how you feel about the interview/interviewee and what was discussed. Write down the questions that you were asked.
2. Send a thank-you/follow-up note after you return that includes specific details from the interview. Ask if you can contact the interviewer in the future if you have questions.
3. Share your thoughts and notes with Mrs. Stephens in the Shorewood Career Center. Others can benefit from your experience!

OPTIONAL: PREP A RESUME

Students often ask if they should take a resume to an interview. Feel free to take one, but do not feel obligated to do so if it is not requested. Typically interviewers already have information about you. If you have recently updated your resume, you can take it to the interview and let the interviewer decide whether to take it.



TYPICAL COLLEGE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

You need not develop long, rehearsed answers to these questions, but you should review how you would answer. This is a collection from various sources. No one will be asked all of these questions.

1. What books have you read lately? What are you reading outside of class? *It is better to name something that was not assigned and that you can discuss in some depth.*
2. Why do you want to come here? *You should be able to give a genuine, informed answer which may include something about a specific program or major.*
3. What are your most important activities and why are they valuable to you? *If you say that you are really passionate about something, be able to discuss it in depth.*
4. What would you add to life at this college?
5. What first drew you to this college?
6. What are your academic interests?
7. What do you do for fun?
8. What other colleges are you considering? *List three to five and practice saying them in alpha order. If you are unsure, say that you are still developing your list. They probably should not ask you this question.*
9. What would you want the Admissions Committee to know about you that may not come across on your application? Is there anything we haven't talked about that you would like to discuss?
10. If you got up and your best friend sat down, how would he/she describe you?
11. How would your teachers describe you?
12. If you had a year to do anything you want, what would you do?
13. Why do you think that this college might be the right fit for you?
14. Describe your high school. *Don't talk negatively about teachers or peers.*
15. What courses interest you beyond those that would be required in your possible major? What clubs or activities outside of class would you be active in?
16. How you would deal with any problems with a roommate?
17. Describe a time when you overcame a challenge, creatively solved a problem, or met a goal.
18. Who are you? What is your story?
19. What famous person would you like to meet/talk to/have lunch with?
20. If you had the chance to teach a seminar, what would you teach? Why?



YOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

Before the interview, think of three or four well-chosen questions. The biggest no-no is not asking any questions when you have this opportunity. Avoid questions that you could easily look up.

Do not take this sheet into an interview. Write or type your questions on your own paper.

ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

1. What sets students here apart from those at similar schools (*name a school that interests you*)?
2. What kind of students succeed academically? Do you see any difference in students from my high school as compared to students from other high schools?
3. *If you are taking AP classes, review the college's policy with regard to AP credit. Tell the official your understanding and ask if yours is a correct interpretation.*
4. How are students assigned advisors? How often would I meet with an advisor? How easy is it to change advisors?
5. Do you have support services for (*describe your particular need*)?
6. Ask about any policy or requirement that you read about and didn't fully understand.
7. What can you tell me about students' experience in the (*your intended major*) program? *If the interviewer is not familiar with the major and therefore cannot answer the question, ask if the interviewer can assist you in contacting someone in the department. Colleges vary in what they recommend students do for departmental questions. Many expect students to look up faculty and email them directly.*
8. How does the college help students figure out what major to pursue?
9. Is the learning environment competitive?

SOCIAL QUESTIONS*

1. Describe orientation for first-year students.
2. Describe the support system for first-year students. Are there Resident Assistants on each floor?
3. What do students do on a typical weekend?
4. What procedure is used to select roommates?
5. What are the most serious social problems on campus?
6. What is distinctive about the social life at the college?
7. What causes/ issues are students engaged in?
- *8. Be sure that at least one question shows that you can envision yourself already on campus. What are the best food hangouts? How easy is it to get shuttles from the airport? What dorm(s) do they suggest?

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Some interviewers will not be able to answer these questions and will refer you to the financial aid office.

1. What percent of a typical financial aid offer is the form of a loan?
2. How much did the cost of tuition, room, board, and fees increase from last year to the current year? What is the anticipated increase for next year?
3. When can I expect to receive an official financial aid award letter? Will it arrive with the acceptance letter?

OTHER

1. Is the college sending a representative to your area? *Ask if you could be notified of the visit. This information may already be available online.*
2. If you get in, is there an accepted students' weekend to help you make a decision?

