

# QUESTIONS ADMITTED FIRST-GEN STUDENTS SHOULD ASK BEFORE MAKING A COLLEGE DECISION

College Greenlight has compiled a list of questions students might want to have answered prior to making a final college decision. These questions can be asked during admitted student events (including virtual ones) or to an admissions officer (in an email or conversation). Some questions are also good for asking students currently attending that college or alumni - make sure to talk to them, too!

## Academics (Will I be able to accomplish my educational goals at this institution?)

- I am interested in studying \_\_\_\_\_. Can I put together this sort of program (major or minor) here?
- At what point do I need to declare a major? What happens if I change my major?
- Will I obtain credit for AP, IB and/or college level courses I completed?
- Who teaches undergraduate classes and what is the typical class size and style of teaching?
- How accessible are professors outside of class?
- Are the professors friendly and supportive?
- Are there internship or study abroad opportunities for my major?
- Will my financial aid transfer to a study abroad program?
- How would you describe the academic pressure and workload?

## Campus Life (Will I be happy here?)

- Are students active in student organizations? In extracurricular groups?
- Are the students friendly and supportive?
- What do students do for fun?
- How long can I live on campus?
- What leadership opportunities does the institution offer?
- What's it like on campus on the weekends?
- Are intramural, club, and varsity sports offered?
- How are the sports facilities?
- What types of meal plans are available?
- Are there food options that meet any restrictions I have?

## Cost (Can I afford it?)

- What does my final financial aid package look like? What is my out-of-pocket cost?
- If my financial circumstances have changed since I applied, can I request modifications?
- Will outside scholarships reduce the amount of need-based financial aid/scholarships I receive, or can it pay for my family's contribution?
- Are there Parent PLUS loans factored into my financial aid award? Is there Work Study opportunity?
- What will my actual bill be per semester? Will I receive a refund to pay for personal expenses, books, etc.? If so, how much will this be?
- What are the hidden costs — those beyond tuition, room and board, books and student fees such as travel back home?
- How can I establish a good relationship with the financial services office? Will they be responsive to any challenges I face?
- Are there additional scholarship opportunities once I am enrolled? Are meal plans factored into financial aid awards?
- How much does it cost to participate in student events and activities?
- In case there are emergencies outside of what financial aid covers, does your school offer a student emergency or hardship fund?

## Outcomes (Will I be supported to stay in school, graduate, and get a good job or enter a graduate program?)

- What is your school's freshman retention rate (percent of freshmen who return for their second year)?
- What is the school's overall graduation rate? Do students typically graduate in 4 years?
- What is the school's graduation rate for students that look like me (e.g. first generation, underrepresented minority, lower-income)?
- How does your college help prepare students for careers or graduate school? When does the school integrate career development into a student's education?
- What is the job placement rate? What are the most common careers or graduate pursuits of alumni?

## Campus Diversity (Is there sufficient campus diversity to make me feel at home on campus?)

- Are there students that look like me or who are from similar backgrounds?
- Are there student organizations on campus that celebrate my particular culture or identity?
- Is the campus community welcoming and supportive to students that look like me?
- Can you connect me with other first generation, low-income, etc. students so I can ask them questions?

## Support Programs (Are there programs on campus to support me throughout my time?)

- Does the school provide support services specific to first-gen students?
- Is there someone I can speak to if I am homesick or having roommate issues?
- Who can help me if I'm struggling academically?
- Is there some type of mentoring program that help first gen students transition from high school to college?

## Questions to Ask Yourself

- What values are important to this college?
- Are they important values to me? How is this school different from the other schools where I've been admitted and am considering?
- Will I get what I'm looking for, do what I want to do, and be happy — learn, participate, lead, grow, forge meaningful relationships — at this college?
- Does this college feel right? Why or why not?