

# COLLEGE FAIR PREPARATION AND SUCCESS



## What Is a College Fair and How Can it Help Me?

- There were all types of college fairs, virtual online fairs and in person, on location fairs. Many, however, are in an accessible location and organized with a table for each college or university to use to display their brochures and other materials. A representative, usually from the admissions office, is typically by the table and available to share information and answer questions about the college they represent.
- Attending a college fair helps you to research and learn more about different colleges and universities without having to spend the time and money traveling to college campuses all around the country. A college fair brings the college's information to a location closer to you instead.
- Some college fairs also offer workshops on college preparation topics, including financial aid and scholarships, taking standardized tests, and the college selection and application process. Attend a workshop if you have time.

## 3 Tips for Success While at The Fair



1. **Set your goals before the fair and make a note of them on a device or a notebook.** Determine what you want the fair to help you to accomplish. Maybe you want to understand how to apply and get accepted or how to get scholarships. Maybe you have a specific career interest and you want to learn more about which colleges offer a major toward that career or is the best fit for you.
  - Answer these questions to help you set your goals-
    - By the end of my time at the fair, I want to know about \_\_\_\_\_
    - By the end of my time at the fair, I want to have \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Introduce yourself to each representative.** Introducing yourself and shaking their hands will make a great first as well as lasting impression. The representatives at college fairs are often the from the admission office and will be responsible for reviewing and helping to make decisions on your application for admission. You will want to be remembered, so introduce yourself!
3. **Ask for the following resources to help you in the college application and selection process.** Many students don't know to ask or don't realize that college fair representatives can often provide resources while at the college fair. While not all colleges are able to provide these resources at the fair, the key is you won't know unless you ask! Two important resources to ask for:
  - **College Application Fee Waivers-** An application fee is often required when applying for admission. Application fees can range from \$30 to \$90 depending on the college. Many colleges will allow the use of a "Fee Waiver" meaning they will "waive" or dismiss the need to pay the application fee under certain circumstances or for students in need and who qualify. Ask college representatives for a Fee Waiver or ask if they can Waive the Application fee.
  - **Scholarships and Financial Aid.** Ask the representatives to provide the names and describe types and eligibility requirements of scholarships offered by that institution. Also ask where you can get more information about how to apply and what is offered (website, or brochures, contact person, etc.)
4. **Start a conversation, ask good questions and listen.** Don't just go around to each table and pick up brochures and materials. Look to have a conversation with the college representatives. College representatives are there for a reason and many work in the college's Office of Admission. They have the information you need. Listen carefully as others ask questions. The discussion or answer from the college representative may be of interest to you.
5. **Collect contact information.** After the college fair, you may have additional questions or want to follow up. Ask the representative for their contact information or the contact information of the appropriate person if not them.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGES

•Read all questions before you talk with college representatives. Representatives include any campus official, admissions office reps, financial aid office reps, professors, & students/ tour guides  
•Listed may be questions that you never thought were important ask. •Don't worry about asking questions that don't apply to you. •Take notes to remember topics that will help you to make your decision.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

### General Questions About College

1. What is the college most proud of?
2. How diverse is this campus?

### Admission Questions

1. Are SAT/ ACT scores required? What was the range of SAT scores accepted?
2. Is an essay required to be submitted with the application? How is the essay evaluated?
3. What other application materials are needed for admission?
4. Is an interview required?
5. What are the application deadlines for admission?
6. What is the average high school GPA of the entering freshman class?
7. Do you give credit for Advanced Placement courses (or IB)? What test score is required?
8. When must I choose a major?
9. What are your early decision options?
10. Will you accept transfer credits?

### Cost and Financial Aid Questions

1. What is the total cost of attendance for students entering this coming school year?
2. At what rate has the annual tuition rate been rising in recent years?
3. What forms are required to apply for financial aid?
4. How many students receive financial aid?
5. What percentage of a student's need is covered?
6. When is the priority deadline for financial aid applications?
7. What kind of financial aid is available? Does the amount lower after freshman year?
8. What is the average student loan debt that graduates leave with?
9. What types of scholarships are available? Where can I learn more about merit scholarships offered?
10. Does your net price calculator provide an accurate estimate of what your school will cost me?

### Questions about Students on Campus

1. How would you describe the students who attend this college?
2. Where do the students come from?
3. What do students like most about the college? What do they like least?
4. What are the popular clubs and activities on campus?

### Campus Life

1. What types of extra-curricular activities are there on campus?
2. What athletic events are popular on campus?
3. Are there fraternities and sororities? How strong are they on campus?
4. Is there transportation on and off campus? Is it easy to get to town and/or home?
5. What's the security like on campus?
6. How is your relationship with the local town or community?
7. Do many students go home for the weekend?
8. What do students do with their free time?
9. Are students required to live on campus?
10. Is housing guaranteed? For how long?
11. How are roommates selected?
12. How does the meal plan work?

### Academics and Faculty

1. What is unique and special about the education at this college?
2. How widely are teaching assistants used?
3. What is the most popular major on campus?
4. How easy is it for freshmen to get classes?
5. What happens if I want to change my major?
6. What's the size of the largest class on campus? The smallest?
7. Do you have to declare a major when you apply?
8. I am interested in studying \_\_\_\_ (Fill in the Blank) \_\_\_\_  
Do you offer that major and can you describe what it's like?
9. What are some examples of internships held by students majoring in \_\_\_\_ (Fill in Your Major here) \_\_\_\_ at your school?
10. What support services are available (tutors, writing center, etc.)?
11. Do you have an honors college? What are the benefits and how do you qualify?
12. Is there study abroad opportunities?
13. Do you offer career planning and job placement after graduation?

### College Graduation Record

1. What is your four-year graduation rate? Five-year? Six Year?
2. What are the main reasons why students don't graduate on time?
3. What does it take to graduate in four years?
4. Will it take longer to graduate if you double major?
5. What percentage of freshmen return for sophomore year (freshmen retention rate)?
6. What are the major reasons why students leave prematurely?