

Questions to ask before you apply to a college or university

1. Does the college have a selective admission policy? (Must you have a minimum GPA or SAT/ACT score to be admitted?)
2. What is the average GPA of the entering freshman class?
3. Does the school have an early admission deadline?
4. Are there other admission deadlines?
5. How long will it take the school to process your admission application?
6. What's the student population like? Traditional college-age or non-traditional? Do most students live on campus or off campus? From local/regional area or from across the country? Male/female ratio?
7. What extracurricular activities are available?
8. You want to live on-campus, how are roommates determined? What happens if you don't get along with your roommate?
9. Is Internet access available in dorm rooms? How many computer labs are there on campus? Are they accessible 24 hours a day?
10. What are weekends like on campus?
11. Are there any financial aid applications or forms to submit in addition to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?
12. What are the deadlines for financial aid applications?
13. Is all financial aid awarded on a first-come, first-served basis?
14. How long will it take the school to inform you about the financial aid and scholarships you have been awarded?
15. Can the school provide an overview of their entire financial aid program, including how to qualify for need-based aid, merit-based scholarships and talent-based scholarships?
16. Will the college reduce your financial aid award if you receive outside (private) scholarships? If so, do they reduce gift aid (scholarships, grants) or loan amounts first?
17. Will the college meet all of your demonstrated financial need, and if so, for how many years?
18. Are there tuition payment plans available that will let you make installment payments for each semester's bill?
19. What can the college do to help you locate other sources of financial aid?
20. Can you complete the financial aid process online?

For more tips on how to prepare for college academically and financially, visit www.AIE.org.