Questions to Ask When Visiting a College or University

Academic Questions:

How many students will be in the junior class this year?
- Are courses readily available to the students?
- Is the college accredited by a Regional Accreditation Agency?
- When must I declare a major?
- How difficult is it to change my major?
- What is the average class size?
- Do professors, their TAs or graduate students teach courses?
- How do students register for classes?
- Can students get priority registration?
- Which students get priority registration?
- How do I receive advisement about which courses to take to complete my degree?
- How do I contact my advisor?
- Are there any support programs such as MEP for engineering students, EOPS, and tutoring centers?
- Is the college on semesters or quarters?
- Does the college have a study abroad program?
- Do you offer internships related to my major?
- Will I need my own computer? Is it a wireless campus?
- Do you have a job placement office?
- What is the percentage of students getting jobs after they graduate?
- What percentage of students are transfer students from community colleges?
- What percentage of transfer students graduate within 2 years?
- Does the college provide each student with an e-mail account?
- Do you offer distance education/online courses?
- Do online courses count toward the degree?
- Where are computer labs located on campus and what are the hours?
- What percentage of students are on financial aid?
- Are there scholarships available?
- Are there campus employment opportunities available?
Non-Academic Questions:

- What percentage of students lives on campus?
- What is the availability of dorms?
- How expensive is housing on campus and off campus?
- What kinds of extracurricular activities does the college offer? What do the students do on weekends?
- How is the food?
- What services are provided in the dorms: (kitchens, laundry)
- How are roommates chosen or assigned?
- How far in advance do I have to apply for housing?
- What special dietary accommodations such as being a vegetarian are made available to students?
- Which meal plan is most popular?
- What is available for students in the surrounding community for entertainment/cultural events/sports?
- Are there shuttles or buses for students on campus? Into town?
- What do students like best about the college?
- What do students like least about the college?
- Will I be able to see a dorm room on my tour?
- How safe is the campus?
- Do you have an escort service?
- How can I check on the crime report for the campus?

To-Do List for College Visits:

- Take a campus tour. Students usually lead tours. Look online for information regarding campus tours (dates, times, starting point).
- Check reports regarding campus safety.
- If classes are in session, see if you can sit in on one.
- Eat a meal in the dining hall.
- Pick up copies of the campus newspaper and other publications.
- Be sure to see a dorm room, library, computer center, dining hall, student union, academic facilities, and performing arts facilities.

Adapted from www.pghs.org/counseling/questions.htm