

Before the Interview

Always prepare yourself for an interview. You may not be 100% sure whether you intend to apply to this college or not, so it makes sense to make a positive impression with the admissions counselor in case you do apply. Following are some tips to prepare you for your interview:

- Make an appointment by calling the admissions office well in advance of when you want to go. Special requests, such as talking to a coach or professor, a tour of the campus, or sitting in on a class, should be made well in advance as well.
- Learn as much as possible about the college before your visit. Be prepared both to answer and ask questions.
- Give some advance thought to the things you want to look for and ask about. Having a list of questions with you is acceptable.
- Although you may take the tour with one friend (never a gang!) or with your parents, go to the interview alone. Mom and dad or friends do not participate in the admissions interview. Parents are sometimes invited to speak with the officer following the interview.
- Be yourself at all times – be honest, sincere, interested.
- Smile! Speak distinctly. Look at the interviewer when you are speaking.
- APPEARANCE: Dress neatly and attractively.
- Relax! Interviews are meant to be informative to both parties. Try to get as much out of the interview as you put into it.
- Maintain eye contact and body language that says “I am interested and alert, yet relaxed.” Don’t cross your arms. It makes you appear bored, unenthusiastic and unconcerned. Sit up straight and lean toward the interviewer to show interest.
- Know your background and experience. Be prepared to present it in an orderly manner. An opening question may be “Tell me about yourself.”
- Be prepared to tell why you are considering this particular college and what you expect to get out of your years there.
- Be ready to answer questions about your SAT scores, rank-in-class, latest grades, and courses you have taken. It would be advisable to obtain a copy of your transcript from the registrar to take with you.
- State and defend opinions only if asked. Do not be argumentative. If you do not know something, admit it. Don’t try to bluff.
- When you are asked questions by the interviewer, do not answer with just a “yes” or “no.” Elaborate briefly. The interviewer wants to hear you converse.
- Thank your interviewer for his/her time and consideration.

Colleges are interviewing hundreds of people. **SOMEHOW YOU MUST STAND OUT!** The best way to do this is through showing confidence, willingness to learn and work, and a genuine **EXCITEMENT** about the challenge of going to this college. **ENTHUSIASM IS CONTAGIOUS!** You must help the interviewer visualize you as part of his/her student body. **SMILE, BE FRIENDLY, CONSIDERATE AND POLITE.**

When You Arrive on Campus

- Allow sufficient time to arrive at the school before your scheduled interview.
- Take a tour and check the facilities, including the dormitories.
- Talk to students; they are a very useful source of information about a college. But, remember that students’ personal opinions must be considered with care.
- Have a meal on campus.

After the Interview

Write a letter of appreciation to the interviewer. This shows your thoughtfulness, courtesy, and maturity. It also reinforces the admission officer's memory of you as an individual, which is especially important in schools with very competitive admissions.

Sample Questions You May Be Asked by College Admissions Personnel

- In what field are you interested in majoring?
- What are some of your post-college goals?
- How did you learn of this college and why are you interested in attending?
- What are your rank-in-class, SAT scores, GPA? Explain any discrepancies. Do your test scores reflect your abilities?
- What have you done beyond the required courses in high school?
- What were your favorite classes in high school? Why?
- What types of activities were you involved in during high school? Include in-school as well as community involvement.
- What do you do during summers?
- Describe your personal qualities?
- How would your best friend describe you?
- What are some of your concerns about the nation/world today?
- How did you determine that this school may be appropriate for you?
- To what other schools have you submitted applications?
- What are your intentions if you are accepted at this college?
- Do you have any questions?

Sample Questions You Could Ask College Admissions Personnel

- What is the student to faculty ratio?
- How large are the introductory courses that I will be required to take during my Freshman year?
- What percentage of students returns after the Freshman year?
- What are the standards for Dean's list in my declared major?
- Will I get the classes that I sign up for? Describe the registration process.
- How do you handle "undecided" students? Any special programs?
- What can you tell me about study time and expectations?
- What types of social activities are available on campus and in the area – athletic teams, music programs, theater, or other campus organizations?
- Do students have their full financial aid need met? How are scholarships I may win handled?
- What are the pluses and minuses of dormitory life?
- What is available for health services on campus? Any cost?
- What can I do over the summer to prepare for the upcoming year?
- How would you describe the "typical" student at this school?
- What personal qualities does this school look for in a student?
- Other pertinent questions related to your major or personal circumstances.