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CORNELL COLLEGE

The campus visit is one of the most critical parts of making your college choice—by asking a lot of questions, face-to-face, with counselors, aid officials, and current students, you can get a feel for whether it’s the right place for you to live and learn for the next four years.

5+ things to ask students:

Questions you won't find answers to in college brochures

1. How much time do you spend on homework?

2. What is campus like on a Saturday night?

3. What are your relationships with professors like?

4. How long did it take for you to feel at home here?

5. Why did you choose a liberal arts college?

6. How would you describe this college in one sentence?



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What to ask on a college visit: Beyond the brochures

This college visit guide is brought to you by Cornell College, where students learn One Course At A Time. Call 888.556.3372 to schedule your campus visit.

5 things to ask admission counselors:

Questions that show off your critical thinking skills

1. Can you give me an example of a student who has been successful at your college?
2. What is it like to take a class in (insert your favorite subject here) at your college?
3. What sort of research opportunities are available for students interested in (insert favorite subject here)?
4. What are the benefits of a liberal arts education?
5. What are the benefits of a small/large student population?

5 questions to ask financial assistance advisors:

Questions that get to the true cost of attendance

1. What is the typical breakdown of loans vs. grants?
2. What percentage of need does the school typically meet? Do scholarships renew automatically?
3. What is the average college debt that students leave with? How does that compare to other colleges?
4. What work study opportunities are there?
5. How likely am I to graduate in four years?

5 ways to get the most out of your college visit

1. Do your own research first.

Check out the college website, Google “what to ask on a college visit,” or talk to someone who has already been on a few college visits to get ideas about how you want to spend your time and what questions you want to ask.

2. Look for local events.

Check the city’s website for information on dining options and events.

3. Document your visit in the way that suits you best.

In the blur of the college admission and decision process, give yourself something to look back to. What did you see that excited you? Is there a spot on campus you’d like to return to study or relax? Write it down in a notebook, take photos as you go, live tweet—whatever fits your learning style.

4. Make connections.

Start building your campus network right now by talking to students and professors as well as financial assistance officers and admission counselors.

5. Relax, observe, and have fun.

You may not remember the year the college was founded, your tour guide’s name, or the FAFSA code, but you will remember how you felt. Take some time to see if you like the you that you feel like when you’re on campus.