

THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

1. Remember that the college interview is a 50/50 proposition. You should ask questions and they should ask questions. Be prepared to ask questions and research the college before visiting. Also, be ready to state why you think their college would be a good match for you.
2. Arrive early so you will have plenty of time to relax, to catch your breath, and to freshen up, if necessary.
3. Parents should remember that this is the student's interview and not their interview. Many college admission offices have expressed concern regarding the increase of so-called “helicopter” parents. Silence can sometimes be “golden”; when in doubt it is better for the parents to say nothing unless invited to do so.
4. Please remember that being nervous is a perfectly normal reaction. If you are nervous it is all right to admit it. Please note, however, that it is physiologically impossible to be nervous if you breathe normally. Also, it might help to remember that admission representatives are people too; well, most of them anyway, so relax and try to have fun during your conversation. It will make the time pass quickly.
5. Be prepared to answer questions regarding both your strengths and weaknesses. Answer all questions honestly and do not forget to just be yourself. Remember you should want to attend a college that wants you to attend. Talk to the college representative as you would your best friend, with an equal amount of respect and kindness. Also, be aware of your non-verbal behavior and the message it sends. Fidgeting can be a negative.
6. Practice makes perfect. The more experience, the better the performance. Always try to save your first choice college for the last interview and those colleges of lesser interest for the earliest. This way you should be well prepared for the interview process when it's most important to you.
7. Thank you notes are extremely important. You should always thank those people who were responsible for all the arrangements surrounding your visit. Be sure to send a special note of thanks to the interviewer as well. You never know, a note could find its way in your file and provide a positive statement on your behalf.
8. Please remember to take a folder that includes transcripts, test scores, and a resume. However, please do not offer these materials to the admission counselor until the end of the session. To do so any earlier might impact the flow of the interview session. Please keep in mind, however, it is not a problem if they decline your offer.

Questions an Interviewer Could Be Asking Him or Herself.

Why is this student interested in our college?
Is he or she a serious candidate academically and socially?
Does this student present him or herself well?
Is he or she serious about academic commitment?
Is his or her career path well planned and realistic?
Is this candidate mature and friendly?
Does the candidate have a good sense of self?
Does the candidate seem to have interests or qualities that would add something to our college atmosphere, academically or socially?
Does this college have the facilities and atmosphere that this candidate would find beneficial?
Does this candidate have a sense of humor?

Interview Simulation

Ask a friend or family member to go over some of the following questions with you and then critique your responses. Try not to memorize your response to each question. These questions are meant merely to give you practice in developing quick responses so that you will be more relaxed during the actual interview. Also, please remember that an odd or left-field question should always be anticipated.

How do you feel about your academic record?
What attracts you to our college?
How would you describe yourself?
How would your friends describe you?
What do you think you could contribute to this college?
What are your career goals?
What has been your greatest intellectual challenge?
What has been your greatest weakness?
Who is your favorite author?
What is the title of your favorite book? /What is the title of your favorite book?
What is your favorite course? Why?
What is your least favorite course? Why?
Who is your favorite teacher? Why?
Who is your least favorite teacher? Why?
What extracurricular activities do you enjoy most? Why?
Tell me about your work experience, travels, hobbies and interests.
What do you do in the summers?
What is your proudest accomplishment in high school?
What are you thinking of as a possible college major? Why?

Source: CollegeMasters, LLC, Rusty Haynes, CEO

What is the best attribute you will bring to our college, if accepted?
If you could not attend college, what would you do?
Who are your heroes?
What do you dislike about school?
What books have you read in the past year?
If you could write your interview report, what would you say?
Why did you decide to apply to our college?
Do you think a college degree is necessary for success?
What turns you off the most about people?
What makes you the happiest? The maddest? The most frustrated?
What book (or movie) what you recommend to a friend? Why?
What attributes do you look for in a good friend?
What is the best movie you have seen in the past year? Why?
What are some of your most positive attributes?
What are the three things you value most in your life?
What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Why?
If you could pick any state in the U.S. or any country, where would you like to live?
Why?
Where do you see yourself in five years? 10 years?
Give me three adjectives that describe you? Why?
If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?
What has been your biggest challenge? Why?

Sample College Interview Sheet

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

High school: _____ Year in school: _____

Year of graduation: _____

Parents' names:

Perspective majors(s):

Is financial aid important? _____ Are scholarships important? _____

How much time do you spend studying per day? _____

Do you read for fun? _____

If so, then what? _____

Who is your favorite author? _____

Are you participating a special type of curriculum (i.e. IB, Honors, AP, Enriched, Accelerated, etc)? _____

If so, please indicate what type:

Senior courses:

English _____
Mathematics _____
Foreign language _____
Science _____
Computer science _____
History _____

Junior courses:

English _____
Mathematics _____
Foreign language _____
Science _____
Computer science _____
History _____

Overall GPA _____ Rank in class (if applicable) _____

Test scores:

PSAT _____ V _____ M _____ W _____
PSAT _____ V _____ M _____ W _____
PLAN: English _____ mathematics _____ reading _____ science
reasoning _____ composite _____
PLAN: English _____ mathematics _____ reading _____ science
reasoning _____ composite _____
SAT _____ verbal _____ math _____ SAT I _____ verbal _____ math

SAT Subject Tests: subject _____ score _____ subject _____
score _____ subject _____ score _____ subject _____
score _____ subject _____ score _____ subject _____
ACT: English _____ mathematics _____ reading _____ science reasoning _____
composite _____
ACT: English _____ mathematics _____ reading _____ science reasoning _____
composite _____

Activities:

Awards:

Hobbies, talents and interests:

Employment and volunteer experience:

Mentorships:

Summer activities:
