

PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY EVENING: QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ASKING

These questions will get you thinking about post-secondary education and the things you should know before you make your decision. Review these questions in order to make the most of your visit to our **Pathways to Opportunity** evening.

ASK YOURSELF:

- What programs or courses interest me?
- Which subject(s) do I succeed in?
- How many years do I plan to attend a post- secondary institution?
- How will I pay for it? How early should I start saving for post-secondary education?
- Is living at home a possibility/preference? Can I afford to live away from home?
- Do I want to live away from home?
- Do I want to attend a small, medium, or large institution? Is the look and feel of the campus I choose important to me?

ASK REPRESENTATIVES:

Admission Requirements

- What courses are required in order to be admitted to the programs that interest me?
- Are there additional requirements for admission to the program that interests me?
- Can I go into a professional program (e.g., Law School, Optometry) directly from secondary school?
- Do you accept courses that have been taken through night school, summer school and correspondence?
- Can I transfer from college to university?

Programs

- What is the difference between a diploma/advanced diploma/certificate/college applied degree/university undergraduate degree/ professional program/master's degree?
- Does your post secondary institution have the program that interests me?
- Where can I get more information about a particular program?
- Can I look at your course calendar or visit your website for more information?
- What is unique about your program?
- How much is theory? How much is practical?
- Is there any co-operative education or internship opportunities? When does it occur?
- How are students evaluated? (exams/project/field work)
- What is the course workload? (class hours/labs/homework)
- What if I don't know exactly what program I am interested in? When do I have to declare a major? Can I change my major?
- Will I have a faculty advisor?
- What is the job placement rate?

Finances

- What are the costs involved in attending your school for one year? (e.g. housing/books/lab fees/materials/tuition)
- Do you award scholarships automatically or do I need to apply? Is it only based on my grades?
- Is financial aid available from your school?
- Is it easy to get a part-time job on campus or in the community?

Lifestyle

- How do I apply for residence? Is residence guaranteed?
- Which varsity sports are available?
- What sports can I play if I'm not on a varsity team?
- What campus support services are offered, especially for new students/students with a mental health issue or IEP?
- What are the first-year class sizes like at your post secondary institution?
- Do class sizes vary according to the program I choose?

Next Steps

- When are your campus tours and open houses available?
- What can I expect from your institution's information sessions?
- Do I have to be in my last year of high school if I plan to attend the information sessions or to take a campus tour?
- What courses are required for admission to the program I'm interested in?
- Do you accept courses that have been taken through night school, summer school, and correspondence?
- Are there any additional or special requirements for admission to the program I'm interested in?
- What is the minimum average required for admission to the program I'm interested in? How will my average be calculated?
- Is my program competitive? How many students apply? How many students are accepted?
- How can I increase my chances of being accepted?
- Can I apply to more than one program at your school?
- When do I choose my courses? What if I change my mind? Once accepted, can I change my major? When?
- If I am not accepted to the program I want, does your institution provide alternate offers of admission?

Housing:

- What percent of first year students live on campus? What is on-campus life like?
- What are the options for housing on campus? Off-campus?
- How do I apply for residence? Is residence guaranteed? What is residence like -double rooms or single rooms?
- Can I choose my residence? My room? My roommate?
- What types of rooms are available?
- Are meal plans optional or mandatory in residence? What types of meal plans are available?
- Do meal plans accommodate food allergies, vegetarian/vegan diets, health or faith-based restrictions, and other dietary requirements?

Student Services:

- What academic and career services are available to students?
- What resources are there for students who seek tutoring? Is there a writing center?
- What are the available medical facilities? Are they open 24 hours a day?
- Are there campus support services specifically for first year students? Are there any other student services available?

Classroom and Professors:

- What is the average class size for the program I'm interested in?
- Are first class sizes larger than upper-year class sizes? Are professors approachable?

Campus Safety:

- Is the campus secure?
- Is there a student escort system or shuttle?
- Can students walk alone at night?

Community:

- What is the local town/city like? Urban? Suburban? Rural?
- What is it like to live in your region?
- Does public transportation provide easy travel between the campus and the community?
- Will I need a car to get around?
- How far away from my home is your campus? How much time will it take to get there from my home (e.g. by car, bus, train, air, or public transportation)