



STRATEGIC ADMISSIONS ADVICE
Manage... Execute... WIN!

College interviews are critical. If a school offers one, required or “recommended”, do everything in your power to arrange one for your child. While it’s true that many schools will not hold it against an applicant who does not have an interview, the ideal is to have one.

Please remember that many schools, especially the larger universities, do NOT offer interviews at all.

Some interviews are evaluative which means that they are utilized to make admissions decisions. Other schools offer informational interviews that are solely to answer questions. An admissions counselor, an alumnus who lives in your area or a current student on campus, may conduct interviews. Be sure to contact each school for specific information regarding its interview policies and procedures.

Arrange an interview as soon as they become available. Some schools allow interviews anytime and others want students to submit an application first.

Prepare for an interview. Know when and where the interview will be held. Do prior research and review the website, especially the academic program of interest. Take time to think about strengths and interests and how they can be revealed in a 20-40 minute conversation.

Interviews personalize the admissions process. It allows colleges to put a face to the name. It is a great way to demonstrate sincere interest and lays the foundation for writing great “why X college?” essays. When you interview you can engage admissions counselors via email more authentically.

Wear comfortable clothing during interviews. Think business casual. Jeans are fine (as long as they are not ripped) but stay clear of hats, shorts and sneakers.

To Do’s

- Ask questions (see below)
- Make and maintain eye-contact
- Listen attentively
- Show enthusiasm
- Be honest
- Be specific and offer concise responses
- BE YOURSELF!



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QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING IN AN INTERVIEW

1. What is the average class-size (especially in my field of study?) And how does it change from freshman to upper-class years?
2. What are the internship opportunities?
3. Are there research opportunities for undergrads?
4. What are the pros and cons of the different housing options?
5. **Does this school have a stereotype? How accurate is it?**
6. What happens here on weekends?
7. Do fraternities and sororities dominate the social scene?
8. **What political issues concern students most?**
9. **How about current campus issues?**
10. What do students like best about this school?
11. What do they complain about?
12. **What kind of student is most successful here? What kind is not?**



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SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did you learn about _____ college?
2. What are you looking for in a college and/or what brings you this one?
3. **Are your grades a good indication of your ability? If not, why?**
4. What classes have you enjoyed most in high school?
5. What excites you most about going to college?
6. What do you want college to do for you?
7. How do you see yourself in ten years?
8. Do you have a major in mind? What interests you about it?
9. **What books have you found enjoyable but challenging?**
10. What do you do in your spare time (outside of class)? Why do you do those things?
11. What things do you do well?
12. What have you done in your life that you are particularly proud of?
13. What has shaped you the most? What has been crucial to your life thus far?
14. **How would you describe yourself? How would teachers describe you? How would your best friend describe you?**
15. What sets you apart as an individual at your school?
16. **What would you change about yourself?**
17. Whom do you admire most in the world? Why?
18. **If you could speak to one living person, who would that be?**
19. What will you contribute to this college?