

College questionnaire for students

Name of student: _____

1. Do you want to be:
 - able to come home in an hour or so every weekend?
 - able to come home in a half-day's drive?
 - able to come home only on vacations?

2. Do you have a geographical preference?
 - Southeast Northwest
 - Southwest Midwest
 - West Coast Northeast

3. Do you prefer certain states? If so, list them.

4. Which do you prefer? Large city Suburb Small town

5. Do you have a sense of what size college/university might suit you best? If so, please indicate below.

6. Do you think you know what you want to study in college? Yes No
If you checked "yes," what is your intended area of study?

7. Are there any other general preferences you have at this point?
Fraternities and sororities? No frats or sororities? Colder climate?
Warmer climate? Other?

College questionnaire for students (page 2)

Questions About You

The following questions can help you focus the college selection and admissions process where it belongs—on you! An honest and thoughtful self-evaluation can reveal what you should look for in the colleges. It will also prepare you for statements you will be asked to make about yourself on essays and, perhaps, in interviews when you apply to colleges. Please answer the questions on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the questionnaire. There are, of course, no right or wrong answers.

Your Goals and Values

1. What aspects of your high school years have you enjoyed the most? If you could live them over again, would you do anything differently? If so, what?
2. What values are most important to you? What do you care about most?
3. How do you define success? Are you satisfied with your accomplishments to date? What do you want to accomplish in the years ahead?
4. What kind of person would you like to become? Of your unique gifts and strengths, which would you most like to develop?
5. If you had a year to go anywhere and do whatever you wanted, where would you go and what would you do?

College questionnaire for students (page 3)

6. What events/experiences have shaped your growth and way of thinking?

Your Education

1. What are your academic interests? Which courses have you enjoyed the most and which have been the most difficult for you?
2. What do you choose to learn when you can learn on your own? Consider interests pursued beyond class assignments: topics chosen for research papers, independent projects, reading on your own, job or volunteer work, etc.
3. How do you learn best? What methods and styles of teaching engage your interest and effort the most?
4. How would you describe your high school? Has the environment encouraged you to develop your interests, talents, and abilities? What would you preserve and/or change about the school if you had the authority and money to do so?
5. What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience in recent years?

College questionnaire for students (page 4)

Your Personality and Relationships with Others

1. How would someone who knows you well describe you? Your finest qualities? Your most conspicuous shortcomings? How have you grown or changed during your high school years thus far?
2. Which relationships are most important to you and why? Describe the people whom you consider your best friends, your best critics, your best advocates.
3. How do you make decisions for yourself? What are the best decisions you have made recently? How much do you rely on direction or advice from others?

Source: Susan Staggers, Cary Academy, North Carolina

COLLEGE CHECKLIST

Every Year

Know and take the Five Major Solids: English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Foreign Language. Remember to also include a year of a visual or performing art.

- Try to maintain an "A" or "B" GPA; retake any class in which you receive a "D" or less in summer school, adult school, or intersession (wherever college prep is given). Classes can also be taken at a community college or in adult school.
- Make friends with teachers; they write your college recommendation letters.
- Apply early for summer programs or off track opportunities. (December/January)
- Get involved and continue involvement in high school and community extracurricular activities.

10th Grade

Summer/Fall

- Aug.** - Contact schools, get admissions and financial aid applications, and let them know you want to meet with a college rep.
- Aug.** - Athletes: Fill out NCAA clearinghouse and send transcripts in Fall & Spring. Contact college & university coaches/directors of programs that interest you. Create an athletic resume and video of best performances.
- Aug.** - Practice filling out photocopied application forms first.
- Aug.** - Request an interview from schools in which you are interested.
- Aug-Sept.** - Create a calendar for college, financial aid, and scholarship applications.
- Aug.-Sept.** - Review class schedule with counselor to make sure that you are taking college prep courses.
- Sept-Oct.** - Meet with your college counselor to make a final list of colleges to which you wish to apply.

11th Grade

- Before you start junior year, check with your counselor to ensure you are in the best college prep classes. This means you should be taking English, US History, Math, Science, and a Foreign Language.
- Participate in college trips.
- Sign up for the SAT Reasoning in May
- Sign up for the SAT Subject Tests & ACT in June
- Athletes should file NCAA Clearinghouse form.
- Create a detailed college plan with your college counselor before the end of your junior year.
- Take AP tests in the spring if you have taken AP classes

12th Grade

- Oct.** - Get your materials to your HS Counselor for Private School Applications.
- Oct.** - Sign up for the SAT Subject Tests in November.
- Oct.** - Nov. - Have your essay drafts reviewed by College Counselor.
- Oct.** - Nov. - UC and CSU applications are due Nov. 30.
- Nov.** - Get college letters of recommendations early from teachers & mentors; supply stamped envelopes & all forms needed.
- Nov.** - Sign up for the SAT Subject Tests in December.
- Nov.** - Sign up for ACT
- Dec.** - If you are applying to a private college, check to see if they require the FAFSA & CSS Profile. (Fee waiver cards may be available from the college or your high school counselor)

FALL

- Have test scores sent to colleges; use the Score Report for SAT & ACT.

COLLEGE CHECKLIST

- If applying to CSU's make sure to enter the CSU Mentor code #3594. This way all CSU's will receive your SAT scores

Winter/Spring

- Ongoing** - Look for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, www.latinocollegedollars.org, etc.).
- Jan.** - Send FAFSA (Jan 1st- Mar. 2nd)
- Jan-Mar 2nd**-You will need to submit a GPA verification form for the Cal Grant A at the same time you file for the FAFSA. Contact your College Counselor and they will provide you with the form and information.

- Ongoing** - Print or download a copy of all forms.

- Feb.** - Have your parents prepare taxes early; financial aid offices require them.
- Feb.** - Use www.finaid.org to estimate what your family might pay for college.
- Feb.** - Make sure that your mid-year grades have been sent to each college to which you have applied.

- Mar.** - Apply for Cal Grants

- Apr.-May** - Visit colleges if/when trips are offered by the colleges themselves.

- Apr.** - Compare letters of acceptance with financial aid offers; contact your college counselor to help you make an informed final decision.
- Apr.** - If your financial aid status is still unclear at your desired college; get an extension on the deadline of your acceptance.

- May** - Mail your acceptance form and deposit as soon as you have made a final decision. Respond to every college that accepts you (yes or no) by May 1st.

- Ongoing** - Maintain good grades; colleges do withdraw acceptances from students whose grades drop during their last semester.

NOTES:

***Remember your college counselor and college admission counselors are there to help you. Make sure you and your family asks for help when you need it.**