

FACTORS TO CONSIDER ...

When choosing a college

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ *What high school courses are required? Are entrance tests required? Which ones?*
- ◆ *What scores are acceptable?*
- ◆ *Is a certain grade point average or class rank required?*
- ◆ *Will my activities and school involvement be considered?*
- ◆ *Is there an essay on the application? Is it read?*
- ◆ *Is there an early decision or early action plan?*
- ◆ *On what basis are applications accepted?*
- ◆ *Are personal interviews or letters of recommendation required?*
- ◆ *Do certain majors have special requirements?*
- ◆ *What percent of applicants are accepted?*
- ◆ *Can admission denials be appealed?*
- ◆ *What are the application filing dates?*

ACADEMICS

- ◆ *What is the average class size? Largest? Smallest?*
- ◆ *How many students in last year's freshman class returned for their sophomore year?*
- ◆ *What was the grade point average for the freshman class year?*
- ◆ *What is the college's procedure for student orientation, class placement, and scheduling? Are classes guaranteed?*
- ◆ *How is a faculty advisor assigned to students?*
- ◆ *What services does the school offer for the student who is undecided about a major?*
- ◆ *How many students complete a degree?*
- ◆ *What are the most popular majors?*
- ◆ *Are students taught by full-time faculty members, graduate assistants, or a combination of both?*
- ◆ *What types of additional services are provided by the school at no additional cost to the student (e.g. tutoring, career and personal counseling, developmental reading and study-skills workshops, job placement)?*
- ◆ *Is there an honors program? What are the qualifications for entry?*

COLLEGE CHARACTERISTICS

- ◆ *Where is the college located (city, suburb, small town, or rural setting)?*
- ◆ *What is the surrounding community like?*
- ◆ *Is the college public, private, or church affiliated?*
- ◆ *What is the current student enrollment?*
- ◆ *What special or unique programs are offered?*
- ◆ *Does the college have general education or course distribution requirements? What are they?*
- ◆ *Does the college have special programs for transfer students?*
- ◆ *What is the academic calendar (semesters or quarters)?*

FACTORS TO CONSIDER (CONT.)

FINANCIAL AID

- § *What percent of students receive financial aid based on financial need?*
- § *What percent of students receive scholarships based on academic ability?*
- § *What would be a typical financial aid package for a freshman?*
- § *What percent of those who apply for financial aid receive it?*
- § *Will my financial aid be adjusted if my need increases?*
- § *What are the financial aid application procedures and deadlines?*
- § *When are financial aid applicants notified of their awards?*
- § *How long do they have to respond?*
- § *Is there a tuition payment plan?*
- § *Are there campus jobs available?*
- § *Are there off-campus jobs as well?*

COST

- § *What are the costs for tuition?*
- § *Room and board? Are there any other fees?*
- § *How much did costs increase from last year to this year?*
- § *Is there a difference in the costs for in-state and out-of-state students?*
- § *Are accepted students required to place deposits for tuition and housing? Are these refundable?*
- § *By when must accepted students decide whether they will attend?*
- § *Are deposits required each year for returning students?*
- § *When do the bills have to be paid?*

SOCIAL LIFE

- ◆ *What is the average age of the student body?*
- ◆ *What is the male-to-female ratio?*
- ◆ *What percent of students reside on-campus?*
- ◆ *Are dorms co-ed or single sex?*
- ◆ *Is it a "suitcase college" where all the students leave on the weekends?*
- ◆ *What are the procedures for selecting a roommate?*
- ◆ *What are some of the rules and regulations that govern campus and dormitory life?*

STUDENT POPULATION

- ◆ *Where do the majority of students come from?*
- ◆ *Do most of the students commute or live on-campus?*
- ◆ *What types of student activities are there?*
- ◆ *Are sororities and fraternities on-campus?*
- ◆ *What athletic programs are available?*
- ◆ *Is the surrounding community supportive of the college?*
- ◆ *Does the college have a campus visitation program?*
- ◆ *Is housing available/guaranteed for freshmen?*
- ◆ *Is it available for all four years?*