



PALI'S ACADEMY

COLLEGE VISIT GUIDE

Visiting campus is the BEST way to evaluate whether the college is a good fit for you! We recommend spring of junior year as a good time for students to visit campuses they have researched. Late summer and early fall of senior year are also good times since classes may be in session, allowing prospective students to witness campus life. Seriously evaluating a campus is critical, you will be living and learning there for four years! Below are some tips for college visits and questions to ask on your tours that have been gathered from a variety of sources.

College visit tips

- Start planning early, make a list of campuses and when they offer tours and events for prospective students. Schedule campus tours at least two weeks before your visit.
- Establish a budget for college visits, only visit those you would actually consider attending.
- Explore various virtual tour options before your in person visit, many of your questions can be answered by on line research before your visit.
- Learn about the local community before you visit and make a list of places to explore.
- Get student perspectives - ask current students as many questions as you can!
- Schedule meetings with academic departments and financial aid, show up early for tours and meetings, and send hand written thank you notes to those you spoke with.
- Visit a dining hall or student center.
- Explore the college through the lens of campus media: social, newspapers, radio flyers.
- Take notes and lots of pictures! Document and share your visit on your social media! Tag the campus to show demonstrated interest. Journal your thoughts after your visit.

Questions for Current Students

The Basics

- Why did you choose this school?
- Are you happy here?
- What are your school's strengths?
- What's your #1 complaint about your school?
- What else could stand to be improved?
- How accessible are administrators, registrars, financial aid officers, etc.?
- Are students required to live on campus?
- What percentage of students live on campus?
- How do students choose a residence hall and a roommate?
- Do most students choose to live off campus after freshman year?
- What do the campus and community feel like from a safety perspective?
- How would you describe the community and the relationship the college has with it?

Academics

- What majors are popular?
- What departments or programs have the best reputations?
- What's your favorite class?
- Are your professors good teachers? How many are female? Foreign speakers?
- Are most of your classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?
- Were you able to take most of your first-choice classes?
- Are your classes lecture-based or discussion-based?
- How much reading and writing is required in your courses?

- How often are collaborative work or group presentations required?
- How satisfied are you with academic advising?
- Do students use any on-campus tutoring programs or writing centers?
- How big are your classes?
- Does your major require an independent study, capstone project, or internship?
- Is it popular to study abroad?

Campus Life

- What's it like to be a first-year student here?
- What's a typical day like?
- When you first came to the school, how did you get involved?
- How did you meet your friends, and what do students do for fun?
- Are sports popular? Do many students attend varsity athletic games?
- How much time do students spend studying per week?
- What do you do when you're not in class?
- What do you do on the weekends?
- What is the social scene like?
- What kinds of things are there to do in community?
- How's the food on campus?
- Do most students live on-campus?
- How are the dorms?
- Which clubs and student organizations are popular?
- Are there religious organizations?
- Do lots of students belong to fraternities or sororities?
- What's your favorite place on campus?
- Where do you like to study?
- What are the facilities like (science labs, libraries, theatres, gyms, etc.)?
- Are there enough computer labs?
- How is the WiFi on campus?
- Is it easy to get around campus?
- How does the school build community and foster cultural understanding?
- What are the hot-button issues on campus?
- What are some of the school's main events or traditions?

Student Body

- How would you describe your fellow students?
- Are the students here friendly?
- What makes the student body unique?
- Is there diversity on campus?
- Are there many students from other countries?
- Do students of different backgrounds interact easily?
- Are students cliquish?

Career Services

- Are internships available? How do you find them?
- Is Career Services helpful?
- Do you have a mentor?
- Are there opportunities to build leadership skills on campus?
- What options exist for service learning in the community?
- Do employers recruit students on campus?
- How easy is it to find summer jobs and other kinds of work through your school?
- Who are some of the notable graduates from your college?
- How visible is your school's alumni association on campus?
- What kinds of hands-on or practical experiences have you had in and outside of the classroom?

Questions for Admissions Officers

- What is your admission process? Does demonstrated interest play a role?
- What percentage of applicants are accepted? Waitlisted?
- Are there any exceptions to your test-optional policy?
- Does legacy play a part in admissions and, if so, who is considered legacy?
- Do admissions interviews, if offered, play a role in the process?
- Are interviews conducted by alumni, students or admissions officers?
- Are there any majors for which enrollment is capped?
- What is the four-year graduation rate?
- What are the requirements to graduate in four years?
- What is the retention rate from freshman to sophomore year?

Questions About Academics

- Are classes taught by professors or teaching assistants?
- What is the average class size?
- How/when do incoming freshmen get course selection advising for their first-semester classes? How do students apply for honors courses?
- Who gets priority in the course registration process – by grade level, honors, etc.?
- How many classes do students take a semester?
- Are classes more theoretical or hands-on in nature?
- What is your policy on AP credits?
- How easy is it to switch majors or schools within the university?
- What is the breakdown of requirements for most majors?
- What percentage of students choose to study abroad?

Questions About Academic Support

- What tutoring services are available?
- Are tutoring services free?
- How often do students meet with academic advisers?
- How accessible are professors outside of the classroom?
- What types of resources are available for students with disabilities?

Questions about research and work

- What types of research opportunities do students have access to outside of the classroom?
- What type of career guidance is offered by this school?
- Are internship or co-op opportunities available through the college?
- What percentage of undergraduates have had an internship or research experience by the time they graduate?
- Is it common for freshmen and sophomores to get research or internship opportunities?
- Are career advising services available to alumni or only to enrolled students?

Questions For Financial Aid Officers

- What percentage of students receive financial aid?
- Are merit scholarship estimates built into the school's net price calculator?
- How much financial need does the college typically meet?
- How much extra money should I budget for costs beyond room, board and tuition?
- Do you offer work experience? How many students work on campus?
- Do financial aid packages remain the same over time or are they adjusted to reflect tuition increases?
- How do outside scholarships affect a financial aid package?
- Do accepted students receive their financial aid award letter at the same time as their offer of admission or later?
- What is the average level of student loan debt upon graduation?