



- **General**

The college interview typically lasts from about thirty minutes to one hour. While many colleges do not require an interview and it typically is not a deciding factor in the college admissions process, the interview can offer a borderline applicant, the opportunity to impress an admissions officer during a face-to-face meeting. The interview can also be a great opportunity for an admissions officer to put a name to a face.

- **The Interviewer**

- Admissions Officer
- Student
- Alumnus
- Group informational sessions with admissions staff and/or students
- High School and/or College fair

- **Types of Students who may Benefit from the Interview**

- Those interested in a special interest area: sports, specific fields of study and/or activities
- Those that believe a face-to-face meeting will help their application; especially if she/he is concerned the application does not do him/her justice.
- Those who would like to explain a special circumstance: slip in grades, how a learning disability effects grades and/or weakness in a specific area but you persevere.

- **Do's**

- Be yourself
- Be honest
- Be energetic and enthusiastic
- Make eye contact

- Use your interviewer's name
- Use a firm handshake
- Familiarize yourself with the transcripts/test scores
- Bring copies (transcripts/test scores)
- Dress comfortably and neatly
- Arrive early
- Listen and take time to think
- Turn off or leave cell phone out of the interview room
- Greet the receptionist
- Ask questions
- Send a thank you note!

• **Don'ts**

- Lie or exaggerate
- Be negative or criticize
- Yawn, slouch or stretch
- Chew gum, nails or hair
- Recite a prepared speech
- Be arrogant
- Be disinterested/nonchalant
- Swear or use too much slang
- Respond with "yes" or "no" (elaborate on your answers)
- Ask questions in catalog Website (something in which you should be aware)
- Bring a friend, parent etc.
- Tell the college it's a safety

• **Possible Questions**

- Why are you considering this College?
- What are your career goals?
- What are your strengths/weaknesses?
- What will you bring to our school (skills, interests, uniqueness)?
- What do you consider your great accomplishment?
- What is the academic experience you have had in high school?
- How would someone describe you?
- What newspaper, magazine or book(s) do you read/have you read currently?
- What kinds of self-growth would you like to see in the next four years?
- What's your role in the high school community?
- What events or experiences in your life have been the most influential to you?
- What do you see as a good life in 20 years from now?
- Thousands of applicants apply each year; we have a limited amount of space. Why you?

- **Questions you Could Ask**

- What would a typical freshman schedule look like?
- What is the typical size of a Freshman English class?
- What are the residence halls like? Is housing guaranteed for four years?
What kinds of meal plans are there?
- What percent of the student body lives on campus?
- What percent of students receive financial aid? Are you a "need blind" Institution?
- What is your retention rate?
- How is a faculty advisor assigned?
- What type of person does well at this institution?
- Are there active alumni networks?
- What kinds of study abroad programs do you prefer?
- Is the gym/recreation center free for students?