

20 Questions to Ask Your School Counselor

Your school counselor is one of your best resources as you plan for college. Your counselor has information about admission tests, college preparation, and education and career options.

Here are some basic questions to start a conversation:

1. What courses do I need to take to be ready for college?
2. How should I schedule my courses so I'll complete them?
3. Which elective courses do you recommend?
4. Which AP courses should I consider taking?
5. When is the PSAT/NMSQT® going to be given?
6. How should I study for the SAT®? Is it given at school, or do I need to go somewhere nearby?
7. Do you have any college planning sessions scheduled?
8. What websites or resources can I use to begin my college search?
9. What activities can I do at home and over the summer to get ready for college?
10. What kinds of grades do different colleges require?
11. Are there any college fairs at this school or nearby?
12. What colleges do graduates of our school go to?
13. Can you put me in touch with recent grads at colleges on my wish list?
14. Which schools are test optional? Should I send my test scores to some schools?
15. Can you help me start exploring careers?
16. In case you're asked for a recommendation, can you meet with me to discuss things colleges should know about me, such as my interests and goals?
17. What special scholarships or awards can I work toward?
18. Can I look at my transcript to see if everything is as I think it should be?
19. What forms do I use to apply for financial aid? Where can I find them online?
20. How does our school compare to others in terms of test scores and reputation?

REALITY CHECK

Depending on the size of your school, your school counselor's available time will vary. The person who has the biggest stake in your academics is you. It's up to you not to miss opportunities—or deadlines. Take charge of yourself.