

What to ask:

The following questions were developed to urge prospective student-athletes to ask these types of questions during their recruitment.

Athletics-

What positions will I play on your team?

- It's not always obvious.
- Most coaches want to be flexible so that you are not disappointed.

Describe the other players competing at the same position.

- If there is a former high-school all-American at that position, you may want to take that into consideration. This will give you clues as to what year you might be a starter.
- Is the team stacked with juniors and seniors? You may sit the bench.

What are the physical requirements each year?

- Philosophies of strength and conditioning vary by institution. Fitness testing?
- You may be required to maintain a certain weight
- What is the off season like? Non traditional season

How would you best describe your coaching style?

- Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline.
- You need to know if a coach's teaching style does not match your learning style.

What is the game plan?

- For team sports, find out what kind of offense and defense is employed.
- Style and system of play- If they play a 3-4-3 and not a 4-4-2 the team will need extra forwards or if they play zone, do you know how to play in that system?
- Philosophy?
- Playing time? Some programs mandate that reserves do fitness if they do not play.

When does the head coach's contract end?

- Do not make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school.
- If a coach is losing and the contract ends, you may have a new coach.

What are the facilities like?

- Grass, turf, astro-play, practice facilities
- Weight rooms
- Lockers
- Campus (library, classrooms, labs, student union etc)

Academics-

How good is the department in my major?

- Smaller colleges may have very highly rated departments. (A team's reputation is only one variable to consider.)
- What kind of academic support does the school offer?
- What are the admission requirements within the program?
- Is there academic scholarship?

College Life-

Describe the typical class size.

- At larger schools, classes are likely to be larger and taught by teaching assistants.
- Average class size is important to the amount of attention you receive.

Where is the campus?

- Decide if you want to attend school in an urban, suburban or rural location.
- What is the town like? Is there culture? Are there cows and corn fields?

What is the social life on campus like?

- Greeks- Fraternity and sorority life?
- Activities and clubs
- What do people do for fun? Keg parties, poetry readings, chess club, game room, etc.?

Describe in detail your academic support program.

- Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, faculty cooperation.
- This is imperative for marginal students.
- Find colleges that will take 3,000 students and help them get a 3.500 GPA.

Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.

- This will give you a good indication of how much time is spent in class, practice, studying and traveling.
- It will also give you a good indication of what coaches expect.

What are the residence halls like?

- Make sure you would feel comfortable in study areas, community bathrooms and laundry facilities.
- Number of students in a room and coed dorms are other variables to consider.

Will I be required to live on campus throughout my athletics participation?

- If the answer is yes, ask whether there are expectations.
- Apartment living may be better than the residence halls.