



## **The Information Session: 20 Questions Parents Need to Ask**

Prepared by Dr. Gay Stebbins Pepper

[www.collegeandmoreinc.com](http://www.collegeandmoreinc.com)

*Parents are encouraged to ask questions during the Information Session run by the Admissions Office. Listed below are important questions that are not always addressed by admissions officers but which may be important for parents to know when assessing the quality of the undergraduate experience.*

- 1. Does the college have a clear mission statement? Do they make clear the priority they place on undergraduate education? Do they make clear what criteria they use in evaluating students for admission?*
- 2. Does the college provide an orientation program for in-coming students? Is the orientation mandatory or optional? Do faculty and administrators participate?*
- 3. Does the college make an effort to build a sense of community by have each grade participate in a service learning project in the community? Does this college have any special campus traditions that strengthen a sense of community?*
- 4. What kind of academic advising does the college provide for new students in terms of course selection? Are there special freshmen seminars and, if so, who teaches them? Is there a freshman dean?*
- 5. What are the housing options for freshmen? Do all of the in-coming students live together or are they mixed in with other classes?*
- 6. Does the college integrate the living and learning concept by offering special classes and learning activities as part of residential life?*
- 7. How strongly is critical thinking and analytical writing stressed? Does the college offer remedial services for students who need extra help in terms of strengthening reading and writing skills?*
- 8. Does the curriculum have core requirements or are students free to make their own course selection? Does the college give credit or advanced standing for Advanced Placement scores of 4's and 5's?*
- 9. Who teaches the freshman classes? Do professors teach freshman seminars? Are students encouraged to meet with their teachers outside of class? Is good teaching rewarded in the tenure process? What is the average undergraduate class size?*

10. *Is the library a central focus of learning on campus? How extensive are the collections? Is it well-staffed? Are the hours well suited to the study habits of students? Is the technology cutting edge? What does the library spend annually on acquisitions and staff, per student?*
11. *Who advises students on the selection of a major? Does the college offer any kind of ability testing to help student identify areas of innate strength which would give them a better sense of direction when selecting a major? In a student did take an ability test, such as the Highlands Ability Battery ([www.abilitytesting.com](http://www.abilitytesting.com)) which can be done on line followed by a report and feedback session, who the student meet with to discuss how to use this information to decide on a major or career direction after college?*
12. *Does the college promote collaborative learning, allowing students to work as part of team as they solve problems or complete a project? Are professors part of the team?*
13. *Are students encouraged to design their own majors, often making them interdisciplinary? How is work done at a foreign university evaluated when determining who graduates with honors or is inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa society?*
14. *Are their opportunities for students to take part in faculty research? Are students expected to complete their own research, such as a senior thesis, before graduation?*
15. *How extensively is technology used in the learning process? What Internet and World Wide Web resources are available in the library, the classroom, and in the dorms? Does the library have on-line databases for each of the major disciplines?*
16. *Does the college offer other resources for learning, such as art museums, a computer center, music listening rooms, a multi-media center with television and radio stations, a publications center etc.? Does it have good athletic facilities and work-out rooms? Does it have good places for students to meet for lunch or for a cup of coffee?*
17. *What opportunities exist for off-campus learning? Are students encouraged to do independent study projects, internships, and co-operative learning programs?*
18. *Does the college publish crime statistics? If so, what are the recent crime statistics for the college? What measures has the college taken to ensure that the campus is safe?*
19. *Is there a student voice in the governance of the college? Are students represented on the Board of Trustees? What kind of “green” initiatives is the college pursuing ?*
20. *What kinds of academic services exist for students who have learning differences or special needs? How extensive are the health and psychological counseling services? What kinds of career counseling services exist? What is the retention rate after freshman year? How many students graduate in four years?*

