

Looking For The

Perfect College?

Questions You Might Want to Ask

Compliments of Shippensburg University

General Facts about the College

- Is the college public or private?
- What is the size of the college?
- Describe the fall class.
 - How many are freshmen?
 - How many are transfers?
 - What is the female to male ratio?
 - How many live on campus?
 - Where are their homes originally?
- Where is the college located?
- When was the college founded?
- Can a typical student graduate within four years?

The Academic Challenge

- Does the college offer my major program?
- What does faculty expect of students?
- Is the college on a quarter or semester system?
- Does the college offer a program of remedial studies?
- Is there an internship and/or cooperative education program?
- When must a major be declared and what support services are available to help students choose a major?
- Does the college accept AP, IB, or CLEP credit?
- Describe the department of my major area of interest.
 - How many faculty are there in the department?
 - Are there figures on job placement and starting salaries?
 - Describe any unique equipment or features.
- Describe a typical class schedule for a freshman.
- What is the placement record into graduate and professional schools?
- Do graduate students teach courses?
- What are the student/faculty ratio and the average class size?
- Which agencies accredit the college?

- What percentage of faculty holds terminal degrees?
- In what ways does faculty challenge students to leave their “comfort zone” in order to excel?
- What percent of freshmen are retained to the sophomore year?
- What percent of the entering freshmen graduate within four years? Within five years?
- How much time do students spend on homework each week?
- Is there an honors program?
- Does the college offer a study abroad program?
- What percentage of students study in other countries?
- What types of assignments are given (papers, exams, problem sets, rehearsals, research projects)
- How much writing is expected?
- How much reading is assigned per class?
- What are exams like?
- In what ways are students given the opportunity to express themselves creatively in assignments?

Services Offered

- Are there tutorial services? In what areas?
- What services are available to help students adjust or cope with non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)?

Active Learning

- How do students receive help selecting classes?
- How often are things learned in class discussed outside of the classroom?
- In what ways do students work together on solving problems in and out of class?
- How often do students make class presentations?

Campus Environment

- What do students like about this campus?
- How well do students get along with faculty, administrators, and staff?
- What do students do on the weekends and what percentage of students commutes?
- What do students do for fun?
- What types of public transportation are available on campus or in the area?
- What opportunities are available for spiritual expression and growth?

Out-Of-Class Experience

- What activities are available to help students apply classroom learning to real life?
- What types of student organizations are on campus and how active are they?
- What percentages of students do community service?
- What kinds of leadership opportunities are available?
- What kinds of special projects, seminars, or other experiences are offered or required of first-year students or seniors?

Diversity

- In what ways are students exposed to multiple cultures or diverse perspectives?
- How is diversity incorporated into the curriculum?

Technology

- How is technology used in the classroom?
- What types of computers, technology, online information and courses, and support services are available?

Campus Life

- Is campus housing available? For how many years?
- Are you required to live on campus your freshmen year?
- Where do students eat? Describe the food services.
- Are there flexible meal plans?
- Describe the health services that are available.
- May students bring a car to campus? Describe the parking situation.

- Describe the career placement program for graduates.
- Describe the residence hall facilities including regulations and special services.
- What are the statistics related to crime on campus?
- Is there a campus security force?
- What intercollegiate sports teams are available?
- Describe the local community.
- Does the college offer ROTC?
- Is there an orientation program for new students?

Other Things To Think About

- What kinds of activities are students involved in outside the classroom?
- What types of athletic and intramural activities are available?
- What kinds of entertainers, speakers, and cultural groups come to campus?
- Where are recent graduates employed?

Costs

- What is the total cost per year for a boarding student including all required fees? What is the cost for a commuter? Does this include books?
- Is there non-resident tuition?
- What sources of financial aid are available?
- What percent of students receive aid?
- Describe the process of applying for aid. What forms are required?
- What scholarships are available?
- Is employment available for students?

Admission

- Describe the application process. Is it rolling admissions? When are students notified?
- What is the application fee? Can it be waived?
- What is the application deadline?
- What is the confirmation deadline? Is a deposit required? Are there extensions?
- What credentials are required for admission as a freshman? As a transfer student?
- Which standardized tests are required or accepted? How does the college use these?
- Are placement tests required?
- Is an interview required or recommended?
- Does the college use class rank? Is a weighted rank accepted? How is an unranked student evaluated?