Questions to Ask at a College Information Session

Considerable information about each college is on-line, in catalogs, and available by word-of-mouth. Asking questions when visiting a college can affirm or disconfirm your impression of the college. Try to ask questions that broaden your understanding of the college and give you information that may not otherwise be published. Below are some possible questions. Work with your house counselor or parent to think of questions relevant to your own interests.

1. What is the average class size in any given course that freshmen are likely to take? For example, are the introductory science classes given in large 200+student lecture halls?
2. What is the attrition rate at your college for the previous academic year?
3. What is the size of the freshman class that you plan to accept?
4. How does or how has the school dealt with overcrowding when acceptance rates are greater than expected? (Some schools have a policy of forced triples in dorm rooms.)
5. What percentage of students live on campus?
6. Does the college anticipate an increase in the prices/costs for next year? What has been the history of increasing costs at this college?
7. Does the college offer any programs or majors that have a quota? What is the rationale for this limitation?
8. What are the new majors or programs that have been added to meet changing job market demands?
9. Is the college researching any new concentrations that might be marketable?
10. How has the college expanded its facilities within the last five years? Is further expansion planned?
11. Which academic programs include work experience opportunities?
12. How is advising handled at this college? How many freshman students does each academic advisor have?
13. What is the college’s track record for financial aid? What has been the trend in the last five years?
14. Does the college award any scholarships on the basis of academic merit or a talent?
15. How many transfer students were accepted in the college last year?
16. How many of those students graduating from [my intended major] have been getting jobs in their field?
17. What is the placement rate in professional and graduate schools?
18. Is the library adequate for a student's research needs?
19. What attention is the college presently paying to such topics as drug-alcohol counseling and campus safety?
20. To what extent does Greek life impact the student atmosphere?
21. What percentage of students leaves campus on weekends?
22. What types of social activities happen annually? What clubs have a significant presence?
23. What percentage of the student body studies abroad some time during their four years?

TIP: Think about which extra-curricular activities you have been involved with in high school and ask about opportunities to continue that interest.