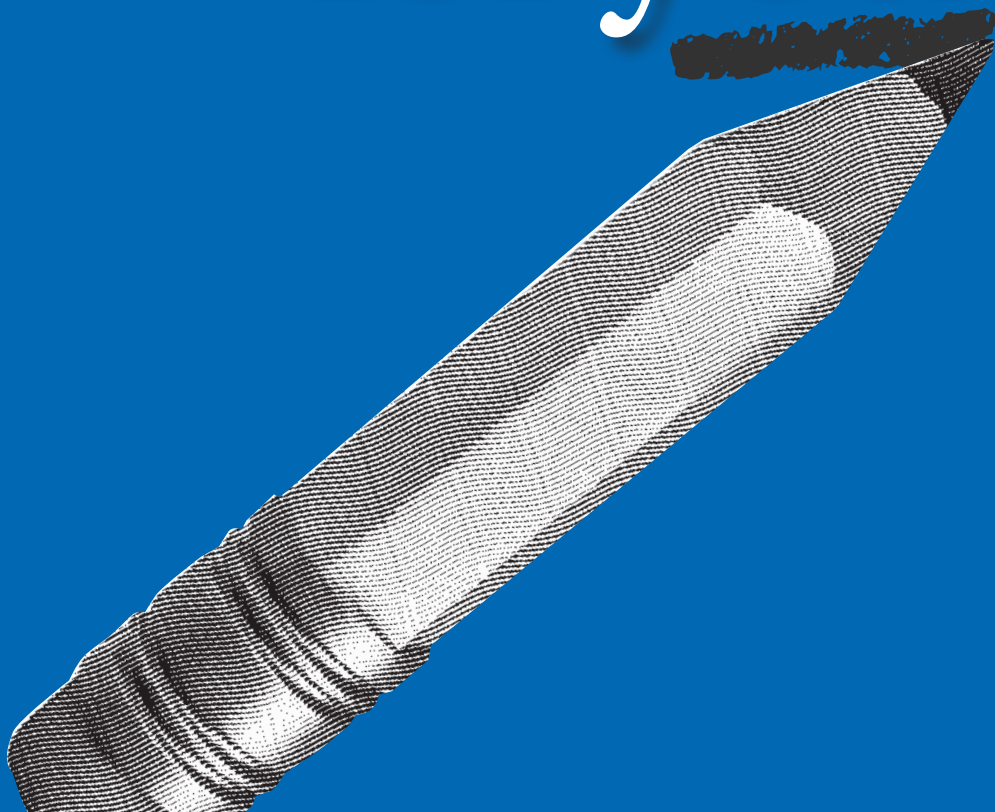




Just  
Ask!

# Which college is right for you?



A WORKBOOK  
TO HELP YOU  
FIND COLLEGES  
THAT ARE  
INVESTING  
IN STUDENT  
SUCCESS



*“Higher education is more important than ever in today’s knowledge-based economy, but it also can be a fairly expensive proposition. It is essential to ask the right questions.”*

# Are you...

...a high school junior starting to think about where you want to attend college, or a working adult considering returning to school? Or perhaps you're the parent of a college-bound student. If so, then surely you are evaluating colleges.

And you should be.

Higher education is more important than ever in today's knowledge-based economy, but it also can be a fairly expensive proposition. It is essential to ask the right questions, so you can choose—or help your child choose—the best college as well as make a sound financial investment.

To help you with your research, the AFT has developed this guide, which includes an on-campus checklist. You will find sample questions to help you evaluate each school. Our hope is to provide you with a wide range of questions to choose from based on your specific situation and priorities. We firmly believe that the questions contained in the “Instructional and Academic Services” section should be asked of any institution that claims it can provide you with the best education.

# Getting started

■ AS YOU BEGIN THE COLLEGE SELECTION PROCESS, review the four areas of questions in this guide:

## Cost

## Instructional and academic services

## College life and services

## Campus safety

Mark those that matter the most to you, keeping in mind your own unique education goals. Use the questions as you begin researching colleges to help you separate fact from fluff as you read promotional materials and search campus websites.

As your research progresses, keep track of which questions have been answered to your satisfaction, those that could use further clarification, and any additional questions your research has generated. Additional copies of the guide are available at [www.aftface.org](http://www.aftface.org).

Colleges and universities face many challenges in providing a high-quality postsecondary education, including but not limited to a declining investment in public higher education; and institutions respond to these challenges in different ways. We believe that these questions will help you determine if a school is both responding to these challenges and investing its resources to provide you a great educational experience that is worth the money.

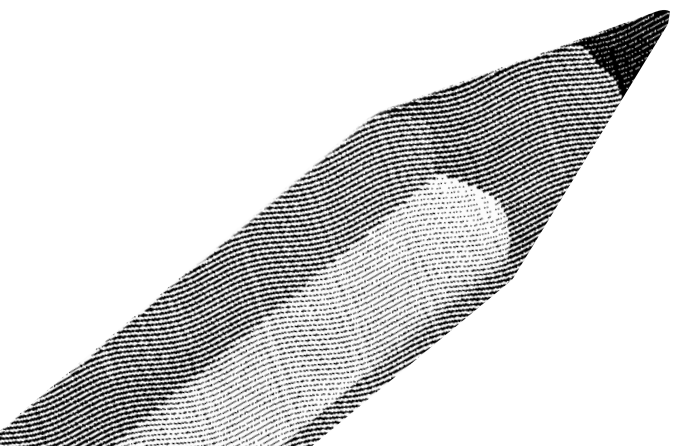
## Preparing for Your Campus Visit

As you get ready to visit prospective colleges, study the AFT “Just Ask! On-Campus Checklist” at the end of this guide so you are familiar with the questions when you arrive for your school visit. Once on campus, make sure you pose your questions to a variety of people—admissions counselors, faculty members, current students—the more perspectives you have on an institution, the better!

## After Your Campus Visit

When you return home, review your notes as soon as possible. Capture your thoughts before you forget important details, and consolidate them into the AFT “Just Ask! College Visit Summary Sheet” available on [aftface.org](http://aftface.org). This tool will help you compare institutions and take you one step closer toward deciding which college is best for you. If you have further questions or need additional information, be sure to follow up with the institution. Use the information you’ve gathered to discuss your options with parents, counselors, teachers and other people you trust to help you in making this important decision.

You may have some concerns about the answers to questions you consider to be the most crucial. We believe it is particularly important that you feel sure an institution is investing in your education with adequate instructional, advisory and counseling services. If it is not, be sure to communicate any dissatisfaction, not only to that institution’s representatives, but to your school counselor. Talking to the counselor about your concerns, especially any that pertain to professors or academic services, will help give you a clearer picture of what you need. At [www.aftface.org](http://www.aftface.org), we have sample letters you can use to start these important conversations.



# Questions

An overview of the kinds of questions to ask prospective colleges (as well as yourself) when deciding on which one is the best fit for you.

## cost

There's more to the cost of college than just the "sticker price" of tuition, fees, and room and board. This list will help you get information on the short- and long-term costs of a college education.

### Tuition and Fees

- What is the annual cost for students (counting tuition, fees and books)?
- What is the out-of-pocket cost after financial aid is factored in?
- What is the average debt that students carry after they leave the institution?
- What kind of financial aid do most students receive at the state and federal levels (Pell Grants, state scholarships, guaranteed loans)?
- What scholarships, work-study and grant programs are available at the institution, and what are the requirements to be eligible for them?
- Do you expect the annual cost to increase over the next two years?

### Room and Board

- How much do students typically pay for on-campus housing?
- How much do students typically pay for off-campus housing?
- What is the cost of an average meal plan?
- How much should a student living off campus budget for food?

- How much should students budget for other expenses such as transportation, entertainment, regular supplies and other costs?

## instructional and academic services

It is absolutely critical that prospective students pay close attention to the services that colleges and universities provide to ensure that they will be adequate to meet your education goals.

### Instruction

- How many students are likely to be in my first-year and introductory classes?
- What is the faculty-student ratio?
- What are the policies for maintaining a grade point average, attending classes regularly, plagiarism and other learning-related behaviors?
- Are all professors required to meet with students and hold office hours?
- Does that include part-time faculty? Do part-time professors get paid to conduct office hours, and are they provided suitable office space to meet with students?
- How much are part-time faculty

paid for teaching a course at your institution?

- What percentage of undergraduate classes and discussion sections are taught by part-time faculty and graduate assistants?
- How likely is it that a first- or second-year student at your institution will be taught by permanent full-time faculty members?

### Technology

- Is wireless Internet accessible throughout the campus?
- Are computer facilities adequate and accessible?
- Does the school require all students to have a specific laptop or other technology?
- Do specific majors or programs (e.g., engineering) require students to purchase extra technology?
- What is the likelihood that classes will be online or have an online-learning component?

### Graduation Rates and Retention

- What percentage of students graduate on time?
- Are there particular majors that take longer than four years to graduate?
- What percentage of first-year students return for a second year?

## Academic Services

- What academic support services are available to students?
- Are all first-year students assigned an academic adviser?
- What is the academic adviser to student ratio?
- Are students also assigned a faculty adviser?
- What kinds of career planning services are available to students?
- What is the career counselor to student ratio?
- Does the college provide support for students struggling academically or students who have learning disabilities?

## college life and services

The college experience extends beyond the walls of the classroom, and the kind of campus life that colleges and universities offer will vary from institution to institution. Here are some questions to help determine if the campus you're visiting is a good match for your lifestyle.

### Student Life

- How are students engaged outside the classroom?
- What types of clubs, activities and student organizations are available on campus?
- How does the institution support these activities?

### On-campus Housing

- What types of housing are available?
- With what amenities?
- Are the dorms co-ed?
- Is housing guaranteed all four years?

- Are students required to live in on-campus housing for a specified period of time?
- Are there living-learning/service-learning programs available for students living on campus?

### Diversity

- With regard to ethnicity and race:
  - How diverse is the student body?
  - How diverse are the faculty and staff?
- With regard to gender:
  - How diverse is the student body?
  - How diverse are the faculty and staff?
- Are there services or clubs available to support LGBTQ students, female students, students with disabilities and students of color?
- What percentage of students rely on needs-based aid to attend this college?
- What percentage of students are commuters versus noncommuters?

### Transportation

- Is there free on-campus transportation for students?
- Is there affordable and accessible public transportation off campus?
- Is there student parking and at what cost?

### Community

- How is the campus involved with the local community?

## Health and Nutrition

- What medical and mental services are available on campus?
- Is health insurance available?
- Is health insurance required?
- Are wellness programs and health resources offered to students?
- How is the quality of food in the dining halls/cafeterias?
- Are there healthy food options, and do they vary in cost from other options?

### Accessibility

- How accessible is the campus for students with disabilities?

## campus safety

To be effective, education must take place in an environment where everyone feels safe. These questions can help you determine if a college meets your expectations for both personal and campus safety.

- Does the institution have its own police force?
- Do campus police coordinate with local law enforcement?
- Are there safety awareness and self-defense classes available for students?
- Is there emergency and safety training for faculty and staff on campus?
- Can students request escorts to their dorms late at night?
- Are there emergency call boxes throughout the campus?
- How is access to the dorms controlled?
- What else does the college do to create a safe environment for students?

# on campus Checklist

The questions on the following pages include important information you will need to know before deciding which college you want to attend. Good luck and enjoy your college campus visit!



# 1

**school name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**important names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **what is this going to cost me?**

### **Tuition and Fees**

1. For the next academic year, what is the cost of  
tuition \$ \_\_\_\_\_ fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ books \$ \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Are these costs different from last year?  higher  lower  the same
3. How do students at this institution pay for school? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  
 Pell grants  federal loans  private loans  institutional grants  
 state grants  work study
4. What is the average debt of a student who has attended this institution? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **Room and Board**

1. How much should a student budget for on-campus housing? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much should a student budget for off-campus housing? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the cost of a typical meal plan? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. How much should a student living off campus budget for food? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. How much should a student budget for other out-of-pocket expenses? \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are students required to purchase any special technology such as a laptop?  
If so, what is the cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## instructional and academic services:

1. What is the size of the average introductory class?

- 0-25    25-50    50-100    Over 100

2. Who teaches most introductory classes?  full-time faculty member

- part-time faculty member    graduate assistant

3. Are full-time faculty members available to students outside of class time? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are part-time faculty members available to students outside of class? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

5. How much are part-time faculty paid for teaching one course? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. Are part-time faculty paid for work outside the classroom?  yes    no

7. What technology is available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  Wi-Fi    computer labs

- IT services    online courses    other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Will a student be required to take a course that is  partially    totally online?

9. What percentage of students graduate on time?

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

10. What percentage of students return for a second year?

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

11. How can a student contact an academic advisor? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Via e-mail    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

12. Are students required to meet with an academic adviser during their first year?

- yes    no

13. On average, how many students is each academic adviser responsible for?

- 1-25    25-75    75-100    100-200    200 or more

14. Are students assigned a faculty adviser in their first year?  yes    no

15. How can a student contact career counselors or career services? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

16. Are student required to meet with a career counselor during their first year?

yes  no

17. On average, how many students is each career counselor responsible for?

1-25  25-75  75-100  100-200  200 or more

18. What academic services are available to help students succeed in their courses?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  tutors  mentors  writing center  math lab  
 learning disability services  other\_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## college life and services:

1. What kinds of groups are most active on campus? (Check all that apply.)

student government  cultural activities  pre-professional clubs  
 intramural athletics  other\_\_\_\_\_

2. What types of on-campus housing are available to first-year students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

dormitories  suites  apartments  other

3. How many roommates can a first-year student expect to have?

1  2  3  4  5 or more

4. Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the entire length of enrollment?  yes  no

5. Is on-campus housing required for a specified period of time?

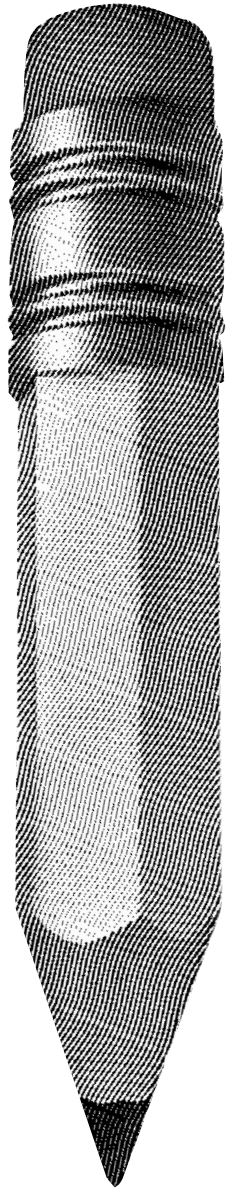
no  1 year  2 years  entire length of enrollment

6. Are there any on-campus housing options that are grouped by interest? (e.g., major, foreign language, common interest, learning communities)  yes  no

7. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  White\_\_\_\_%

African-American\_\_\_\_%  Hispanic\_\_\_\_%  Asian American\_\_\_\_%

Native American \_\_\_\_%  International Students\_\_\_\_%  Other\_\_\_\_%



8. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

9. What percentage of the faculty identify as:

- White \_\_\_%  African-American \_\_\_%  Hispanic \_\_\_%
- Asian American \_\_\_%  Native American \_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_%

10. What percentage of the faculty identify as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

11. Does the campus have services or student organization specifically geared toward

- (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):  LGBTQ students  female students  
 students with disabilities  students of color  international students?

12. What transportation is available to students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- free on-campus transportation  affordable and accessible off-campus transportation
- Is parking available?  yes (if yes, cost \$\_\_\_\_\_)  no

13. What medical and mental health services are available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- physicians  pharmacy  counselors  women's health services
- nutrition and wellness

14. Is student health insurance:  available  required \_\_\_?

## campus safety:

What safety services are available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- campus law enforcement coordinated with local law enforcement
- emergency call boxes around campus
- self-defense classes
- emergency safety training
- controlled access to dorms
- escorts to dorms at night
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Don't forget!

Review your notes as soon as you can after you return home. Use the AFT "Just Ask! College Visit Summary Sheet" (available at [www.aftface.org](http://www.aftface.org)) to consolidate all your information and help you decide which college best suits your needs.

# 2

**school name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**important names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **what is this going to cost me?**

### **Tuition and Fees**

1. For the next academic year, what is the cost of  
tuition \$\_\_\_\_\_ fees \$\_\_\_\_\_ books \$\_\_\_\_\_?
2. Are these costs different from last year?  higher  lower  the same
3. How do students at this institution pay for school? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  
 Pell grants  federal loans  private loans  institutional grants  
 state grants  work study
4. What is the average debt of a student who has attended this institution? \$\_\_\_\_\_

### **Room and Board**

1. How much should a student budget for on-campus housing? \$\_\_\_\_\_
2. How much should a student budget for off-campus housing? \$\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the cost of a typical meal plan? \$\_\_\_\_\_
4. How much should a student living off campus budget for food? \$\_\_\_\_\_
5. How much should a student budget for other out-of-pocket expenses? \$\_\_\_\_\_
6. Are students required to purchase any special technology such as a laptop?  
If so, what is the cost? \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **instructional and academic services:**

**1. What is the size of the average introductory class?**

- 0-25    25-50    50-100    Over 100

**2. Who teaches most introductory classes?**    full-time faculty member

- part-time faculty member    graduate assistant

**3. Are full-time faculty members available to students outside of class time?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are part-time faculty members available to students outside of class?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How much are part-time faculty paid for teaching one course?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are part-time faculty paid for work outside the classroom?**    yes    no

**7. What technology is available on campus?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)    Wi-Fi    computer labs

- IT services    online courses    other \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Will a student be required to take a course that is**    partially    totally online?

**9. What percentage of students graduate on time?**

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

**10. What percentage of students return for a second year?**

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

**11. How can a student contact an academic advisor?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Via e-mail    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Are students required to meet with an academic adviser during their first year?**

- yes    no

**13. On average, how many students is each academic adviser responsible for?**

- 1-25    25-75    75-100    100-200    200 or more

**14. Are students assigned a faculty adviser in their first year?**    yes    no

**15. How can a student contact career counselors or career services?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

16. Are student required to meet with a career counselor during their first year?

yes  no

17. On average, how many students is each career counselor responsible for?

1-25  25-75  75-100  100-200  200 or more

18. What academic services are available to help students succeed in their courses?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  tutors  mentors  writing center  math lab  
 learning disability services  other\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## college life and services:

1. What kinds of groups are most active on campus? (Check all that apply.)

student government  cultural activities  pre-professional clubs  
 intramural athletics  other\_\_\_\_\_

2. What types of on-campus housing are available to first-year students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

dormitories  suites  apartments  other

3. How many roommates can a first-year student expect to have?

1  2  3  4  5 or more

4. Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the entire length of enrollment?  yes  no

5. Is on-campus housing required for a specified period of time?

no  1 year  2 years  entire length of enrollment

6. Are there any on-campus housing options that are grouped by interest? (e.g., major, foreign language, common interest, learning communities)  yes  no

7. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  White\_\_\_%

African-American\_\_\_%  Hispanic\_\_\_%  Asian American\_\_\_%

Native American \_\_\_%  International Students\_\_\_%  Other\_\_\_%

8. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

9. What percentage of the faculty identify as:

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Asian American \_\_\_%  Native American \_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_%

10. What percentage of the faculty identify as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

11. Does the campus have services or student organization specifically geared toward

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students with disabilities  students of color  international students?

12. What transportation is available to students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

free on-campus transportation  affordable and accessible off-campus

transportation  Is parking available?  yes (if yes, cost \$\_\_\_\_\_)  no

13. What medical and mental health services are available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

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nutrition and wellness

14. Is student health insurance:  available  required\_\_?

## campus safety:

What safety services are available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

campus law enforcement coordinated with local law enforcement

emergency call boxes around campus

self-defense classes

emergency safety training

controlled access to dorms

escorts to dorms at night

other \_\_\_\_\_

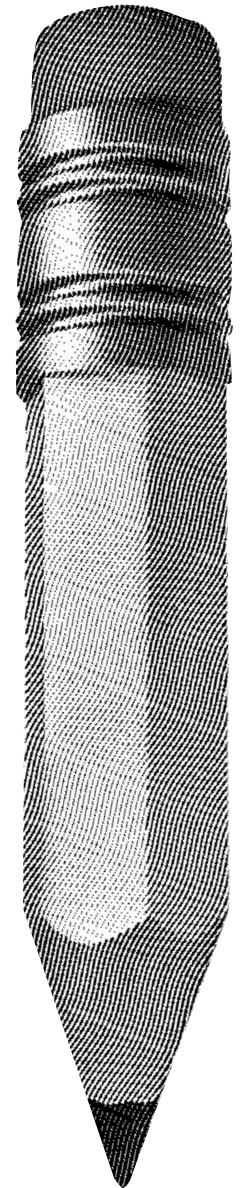
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

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# 3

**school name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**important names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **what is this going to cost me?**

### **Tuition and Fees**

- 1. For the next academic year, what is the cost of**  
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- 2. Are these costs different from last year?**  higher  lower  the same
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 Pell grants  federal loans  private loans  institutional grants  
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- 4. What is the average debt of a student who has attended this institution?** \$\_\_\_\_\_

### **Room and Board**

- 1. How much should a student budget for on-campus housing?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
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- 3. What is the cost of a typical meal plan?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How much should a student living off campus budget for food?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. How much should a student budget for other out-of-pocket expenses?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Are students required to purchase any special technology such as a laptop?**  
If so, what is the cost? \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## instructional and academic services:

**1. What is the size of the average introductory class?**

- 0-25    25-50    50-100    Over 100

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- part-time faculty member    graduate assistant

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- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

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 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How much are part-time faculty paid for teaching one course?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are part-time faculty paid for work outside the classroom?**    yes    no

**7. What technology is available on campus?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)    Wi-Fi    computer labs

- IT services    online courses    other \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Will a student be required to take a course that is**    partially    totally online?

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- yes    no

**13. On average, how many students is each academic adviser responsible for?**

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**18. What academic services are available to help students succeed in their courses?**

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  tutors  mentors  writing center  math lab  
 learning disability services  other\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## college life and services:

**1. What kinds of groups are most active on campus?** (Check all that apply.)

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 intramural athletics  other\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What types of on-campus housing are available to first-year students?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

dormitories  suites  apartments  other

**3. How many roommates can a first-year student expect to have?**

1  2  3  4  5 or more

**4. Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the entire length of enrollment?**  yes  no

**5. Is on-campus housing required for a specified period of time?**

no  1 year  2 years  entire length of enrollment

**6. Are there any on-campus housing options that are grouped by interest?** (e.g., major, foreign language, common interest, learning communities)  yes  no

**7. What percentage of the student body identifies as:**  White\_\_\_%

African-American\_\_\_%  Hispanic\_\_\_%  Asian American\_\_\_%

Native American \_\_\_%  International Students\_\_\_%  Other\_\_\_%

8. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

9. What percentage of the faculty identify as:

White \_\_\_%  African-American \_\_\_%  Hispanic \_\_\_%

Asian American \_\_\_%  Native American \_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_%

10. What percentage of the faculty identify as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

11. Does the campus have services or student organization specifically geared toward

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):  LGBTQ students  female students

students with disabilities  students of color  international students?

12. What transportation is available to students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

free on-campus transportation  affordable and accessible off-campus

transportation  Is parking available?  yes (if yes, cost \$\_\_\_\_\_)  no

13. What medical and mental health services are available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

physicians  pharmacy  counselors  women's health services

nutrition and wellness

14. Is student health insurance:  available  required\_\_?

## campus safety:

What safety services are available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

campus law enforcement coordinated with local law enforcement

emergency call boxes around campus

self-defense classes

emergency safety training

controlled access to dorms

escorts to dorms at night

other \_\_\_\_\_

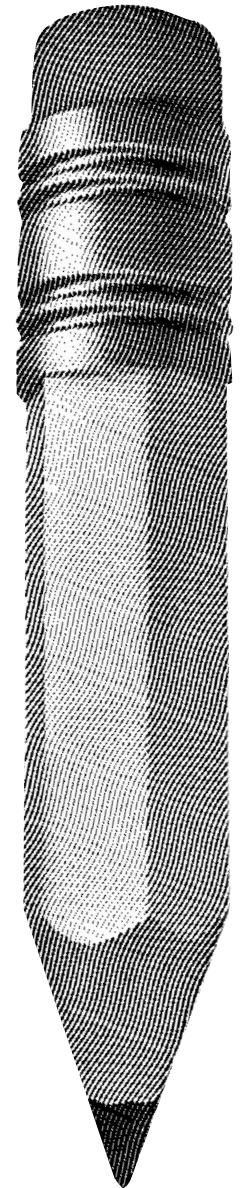
Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Don't forget!

Review your notes as soon as you can after you return home. Use the AFT "Just Ask! College Visit Summary Sheet" (available at [www.aftface.org](http://www.aftface.org)) to consolidate all your information and help you decide which college best suits your needs.

# 4

**school name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**date of visit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**important names:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **what is this going to cost me?**

### **Tuition and Fees**

- 1. For the next academic year, what is the cost of**  
tuition \$\_\_\_\_\_ fees \$\_\_\_\_\_ books \$\_\_\_\_\_?
- 2. Are these costs different from last year?**  higher  lower  the same
- 3. How do students at this institution pay for school?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  
 Pell grants  federal loans  private loans  institutional grants  
 state grants  work study
- 4. What is the average debt of a student who has attended this institution?** \$\_\_\_\_\_

### **Room and Board**

- 1. How much should a student budget for on-campus housing?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 2. How much should a student budget for off-campus housing?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What is the cost of a typical meal plan?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How much should a student living off campus budget for food?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. How much should a student budget for other out-of-pocket expenses?** \$\_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Are students required to purchase any special technology such as a laptop?**  
If so, what is the cost? \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## instructional and academic services:

**1. What is the size of the average introductory class?**

- 0-25    25-50    50-100    Over 100

**2. Who teaches most introductory classes?**    full-time faculty member

- part-time faculty member    graduate assistant

**3. Are full-time faculty members available to students outside of class time?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are part-time faculty members available to students outside of class?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    in person at their office  
 in person elsewhere on campus    other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. How much are part-time faculty paid for teaching one course?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are part-time faculty paid for work outside the classroom?**    yes    no

**7. What technology is available on campus?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)    Wi-Fi    computer labs

- IT services    online courses    other \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Will a student be required to take a course that is**    partially    totally online?

**9. What percentage of students graduate on time?**

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

**10. What percentage of students return for a second year?**

- Less than 25%    25-50%    50-75%    75-100%

**11. How can a student contact an academic advisor?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Via e-mail    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Are students required to meet with an academic adviser during their first year?**

- yes    no

**13. On average, how many students is each academic adviser responsible for?**

- 1-25    25-75    75-100    100-200    200 or more

**14. Are students assigned a faculty adviser in their first year?**    yes    no

**15. How can a student contact career counselors or career services?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail    telephone    online    in person    other \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Are student required to meet with a career counselor during their first year?**

yes  no

**17. On average, how many students is each career counselor responsible for?**

1-25  25-75  75-100  100-200  200 or more

**18. What academic services are available to help students succeed in their courses?**

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  tutors  mentors  writing center  math lab  
 learning disability services  other \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## college life and services:

**1. What kinds of groups are most active on campus?** (Check all that apply.)

student government  cultural activities  pre-professional clubs  
 intramural athletics  other \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What types of on-campus housing are available to first-year students?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

dormitories  suites  apartments  other

**3. How many roommates can a first-year student expect to have?**

1  2  3  4  5 or more

**4. Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the entire length of enrollment?**  yes  no

**5. Is on-campus housing required for a specified period of time?**

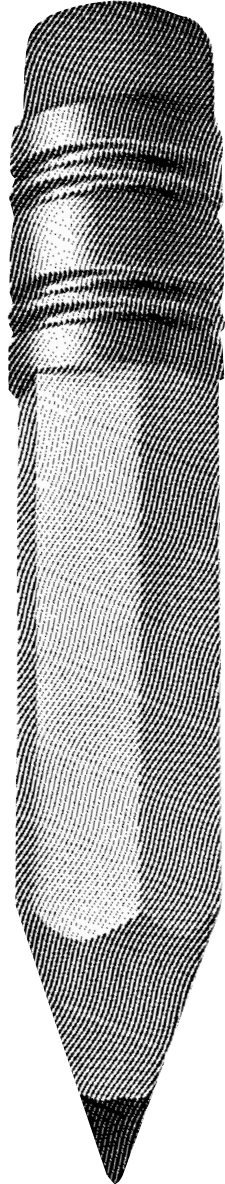
no  1 year  2 years  entire length of enrollment

**6. Are there any on-campus housing options that are grouped by interest?** (e.g., major, foreign language, common interest, learning communities)  yes  no

**7. What percentage of the student body identifies as:**  White \_\_\_%

African-American \_\_\_%  Hispanic \_\_\_%  Asian American \_\_\_%

Native American \_\_\_%  International Students \_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_%



8. What percentage of the student body identifies as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

9. What percentage of the faculty identify as:

- White \_\_\_%  African-American \_\_\_%  Hispanic \_\_\_%
- Asian American \_\_\_%  Native American \_\_\_%  Other \_\_\_%

10. What percentage of the faculty identify as:  male \_\_\_%  female \_\_\_%

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- emergency safety training
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- escorts to dorms at night
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

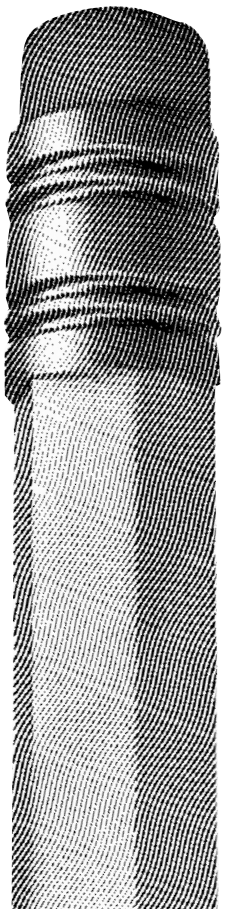
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# AFT's Vision for Higher Education

**At the American Federation of Teachers, we believe that:**

**Colleges and universities** should be accessible and affordable to any student who meets the entry criteria and has the desire to attend the institution. This not only means making sure that tuition and fees are kept at a reasonable level and financial aid is available for low-income students, but that institutions of higher education provide the information and resources that are necessary for potential students to navigate the application and financial aid processes.

**Prospective students** should expect engaging and challenging course work that is relevant to their educational aspirations and provided by credentialed professionals. These courses should be offered in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning and offers a diverse array of experiences both in and out of the classroom.

**Prospective students** should expect assistance from faculty members and administrative support staff in the pursuit of their academic and career goals.

**Colleges and universities** should provide academic and/or vocational programs that are designed to meet the needs of individual students, the communities in which they reside, the businesses that rely upon an educated workforce, and society as a whole.

For other materials to  
help you with your  
college search, visit  
**[www.aftface.org](http://www.aftface.org)**  
where you can download  
tools and access  
further resources.



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