



21 Questions to Ask Before Enrolling

Below is a list of 21 questions that will help you choose the degree program that is right for you:

1. What Will I Learn? What knowledge, skills, and/or competencies will I be expected to acquire and demonstrate by completing this degree or certificate program?
2. How does the program measure what I have learned? How does the institution test that students obtained the required knowledge, skills, and/or competencies expected of a student completing this degree or certificate program?
3. How have recent previous students performed on those measures of what was learned?
4. Will I be able to transfer credits earned at another institution? Which of those credits will count toward my degree requirements?
5. Can I get credit for prior learning and career experiences by 'testing-out' of courses through subject-matter examinations or by review of a portfolio showcasing my knowledge and skills?
6. What are the requirements, including any admissions tests, for being accepted into the program?
7. What are the academic/course requirements for earning a degree?
8. What kind of academic skills should I have before entering the program? Based on my background, will I need some remedial assistance (help with basic Mathematics, English, and study skills) prior to enrolling?
9. Is the program offered fully at a distance or online, or will there be times when I have to physically attend a course or visit a campus or other location for an orientation, academic seminar, or other event?
10. Is there a 'sample course' I can view to see how your courses work?
11. Approximately how many hours per week will I need to put into my studies, per course?
12. How long will it take to complete the program?
13. How engaged do students feel with their coursework, the faculty, and other academic experiences? What evidence does the institution have about how satisfied current students are with their entire educational experience at the institution?
14. How satisfied are alumni with the institution and their educational experience? Would they recommend the institution to others?
15. What costs or expenses will I have in addition to tuition?
16. What is your institution's refund policy?
17. What types of financial aid do you offer and how do I apply?
18. What academic and student support services (such as library, academic counseling, bookstore, tutoring, career counseling, and/or alumni services) does your institution provide at a distance?
19. What hardware, software, computer skills, or other technology considerations are required for me to participate effectively in the program?
20. Do you provide technical support? If so, what hours is it available and how is it provided (phone, chat, e-mail, other)?
21. How can I get a better idea about what your faculty and students are like? Are people like me (age, full-time/part-time) enrolled at this institution?