

Questions to ask faculty during a college visit

When you're visiting a college, you can make the most out of a conversation with a faculty member by asking meaningful questions. A more typical list might include basic questions such as class size, student-faculty ratio, etc. But what you really want to know is what it feels like to be in the middle of an academic term with that very professor you are just meeting. What will that professor really mean to your college experience, and to your future?

That's why the sample questions below are more valuable. Some may not apply directly to the college you're visiting or the major you have in mind—but if some of these questions make you think, "yes! I want to know that," then use them. Alter the wording to your own conversational style. Add questions more specific to your own goals and wishes. With these questions, you'll discover much more than a fact sheet can tell you about the character of that professor, major department and college.

One-on-one attention

- What is your favorite way to work with students one-on-one in your courses or outside of class?
- In what ways do you work with students to help determine their career path or next step after Augustana?
- What exactly is Senior Inquiry and how does it work within your department? What are some of your favorite examples of your work with students on Senior Inquiry?

Hands-on learning

- What types of internships, research, service learning or similar opportunities for hands-on learning are available within your department?
- Do you use particular projects or assignments in which students directly apply what they've learned in course discussions of topics? What are your favorite examples?
- Do you use a particular project or assignment that may help your students determine their career path or calling?
- What is Augie Choice, and can you describe how student majors in your department might use Augie Choice to benefit their career paths?

Special opportunities

- Are any of Augustana's more than 150 student clubs and organizations related to your field? Do your students make connections between their academic studies and their activity outside of class? What are some examples?
- Do students in your department participate in any of Augustana's international study programs? What are examples of locations, types of programs and courses specific to your field?

Location

- How do students in your department take advantage of internships, community events, research or study opportunities in the Quad Cities?
- Do certain courses in your department use the location and resources of the Quad Cities area as part of their class work? What are some examples of this, or of any plans for the future?

Outcomes and success stories

- What are the kinds of liberal arts skills your department develops that will help me excel in this field?
- What are the kinds of hands-on learning opportunities in your department that I can use to my advantage in a career or graduate program?
- What other majors and minors do students usually combine with this major? Are there examples where the other major has helped lead the career direction within this field?
- What are one or two of the students you mentored doing now? How do you think being a part of this department at Augustana prepared them for that?
- What are a couple of your favorite success stories of former students and the lives they lead now?

Teaching style

- What types of group projects do your students accomplish? How do these projects benefit their education beyond class work and one-on-one learning?
- Do you teach in related areas such as Augustana's general education series, learning communities or other courses that combine topics or fields, or international study programs?
- Do you do any research or other projects that have an effect on what you teach at Augustana?
- At Augustana, what is the most important thing you've learned about how to teach?
- What are your favorite recent examples of student learning in your classes?
- What are students surprised to find that they learn in your class?
- What's the most important thing for me to know about taking class with you?