



Top 5 Questions to Ask During OPCW

1. What is your institution's four-year graduation rate?

It has become increasingly common for it to take students six years to graduate with a bachelor's degree instead of four years. That's a big deal. Why? Those two extra years equate to two more years of tuition, housing costs, meals, transportation, and debt – plus a two-year delay in entering the workforce, which means two years of lost earnings.



You should also ask why it takes students at the college six years to graduate. While it is true that sometimes students change majors, meaning some of their previously completed course credits won't count toward their new degree path, very often the underlying issues related to graduation delay are tied to the university's budget.

Note: You can check four-year (on-time) and six-year graduation rates of colleges all across the country [here](#).

2. How quickly do your graduates find jobs upon graduation?

Preparing students for lucrative employment after graduation is a primary function of colleges. Every higher education institution is required to keep track of how many of its graduates either find a job or enroll in a graduate program within six months or one year of graduation.

3. What portion of the admitted class will be filled with early decision and/or early action applicants?

There are three ways to apply for admission at most colleges:

- 1) Early decision
- 2) Early action
- 3) Regular admissions

If you apply for early decision and are accepted, you must attend that school and withdraw any applications you submitted to other institutions, even if you do not yet know what your financial aid package will look like.

If you apply for early action, you will receive an early response to your application, but do not have to commit to attending the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Regular admissions will give you more time to complete their application and make sure all the boxes are checked, t's are crossed, and i's are dotted. On the other hand, you will receive notice of the admission decision later and, therefore, have less time to decide whether or not to enroll at the college.

Some schools like to fill up their admissions slots with early decision or early action applicants, so knowing what percentage of the class will come from early applications can be useful in assessing your chances of being admitted.

Note: A great resource about the benefits and drawbacks of applying early is available [here](#).

4. What is your college's admissions yield?

Every college offers admission to more students than it expects to attend -- they don't want to end-up with empty seats and they know that not every student who is accepted will actually enroll. In the world of college admissions, "yield" means the percent of students who choose to enroll at a particular college or university after having been offered admission. Therefore, understanding a college's yield rate can help you assess your chances of getting accepted. Typically, a high yield rate means it is a more desirable school and a low yield rate may mean you have a higher chance of being admitted.

5. Did you catch my name?

Campus tours are sometimes used by colleges to gauge students' level of interest in and seriousness about attending the college. Further, an applicant's "demonstrated interest" may be considered by the college when making an admission decision. For example, an applicant who visited the college campus can sometimes have an advantage over an equally qualified applicant who spoke with an admissions representative at a college fair. So, bottom line: Make sure your OPCW tour guide takes note of your attendance!



Note: The advice above is based on [this article](#) by Ann Brenoff.