

Questions to ask the school

(from Education and Training Planner)

Choosing the right school or program is like buying a car. You want the best value for your dollar and you want a car with the right options. Do you buy the first car you see? Of course not! It's the same when choosing a school or training program. Plan your return to school well ahead of time. Take the time to shop around and you'll be happier with your decision.

Here are some questions to ask when you visit a school. Talk to an advisor at each school you're interested in. Don't be shy about asking questions. You have a right to get the answers you need to help you make a decision.

Researching a specific school

The occupation I'm interested in is: _____

So far, the schools and programs that interest me are: _____

Make a plan before you visit each school and talk to an advisor. Make several copies of these sheets so you can use a fresh one for each school you visit.

Write down this information for each school that you visit.

Name of school: _____

Address of school: _____

Who I'm talking to: _____

Name and position: _____

Phone number: _____

Date and time of our meeting: _____

Samples questions to ask schools

What courses or programs do you offer in my chosen occupational field?

Are there jobs in this field? Which companies or organizations have recently hired some of your graduates?
(If you're going back to school so you can get a job, this is a BIG question.)

What are your graduate survey results for the last three years?

Does your school have a work experience program? _____

If yes, who is responsible for finding the work placement? (The students or the school?) _____

What are your admission requirements?

Do I have them? Yes No

How can I get them? _____

What are the language requirements? _____

Do I have them? Yes No

How can I get them? _____

What are the other requirements?

Do I have them? Yes No

How can I get them? _____

How long does the program take? How many months/years? _____

How many courses do I need to take? _____

Can I attend full-time? Part-time? _____

How many hours a week are spent in class? In Labs? _____

How many hours a week do you recommend I study for each class? _____

How much does the program cost? (Costs include tuition, books, and fees. There may be other costs too.)

Do you help students apply for financial assistance? _____

Will I get my fees back if I change my mind after I apply to enter the program? _____

When is the application deadline? _____

How large is the school? _____

How large are the classes? _____

How many students attend this school? _____

Can I sit in on a class or two before I decide? _____

Can I talk to some instructors? _____

(If you do speak to instructors, do they seem knowledgeable?) _____

What kind of credential will I get when I graduate? _____

Do employers recognize it? _____

Do they think it gives the right kind of training I need to reach my employment goal? _____

I learn best by _____ (reading from books, using visual aids, doing things with my hands, etc.)

Does your school deliver courses the way I learn best? _____

Will I use up-to-date equipment, machinery or process? _____

(Look at equipment and facilities—are they up-to-date? _____

Is the equipment similar to equipment you will be using on the job? _____

Does the program focus on theory or practical work? _____

Do your courses transfer to other schools? _____

If I start taking classes here, will they be recognized if I move to another school? _____

How much money do graduates of this program usually make? _____

When they start out? _____

In five years? _____

Are there any graduates that I can talk to?

(If you talk to graduates, ask them about their training. Did they find the work they wanted when they finished school?)

Can I team up with a student for a day? _____

(As you research programs and schools, talk to some students who are in the program you are considering.)

If you do team up with a student, here are some questions you can ask:

- ◆ How long have you been in the school?
- ◆ Do you like the program?
- ◆ Are you learning what you need to know to get work?
- ◆ What is your opinion of the instructors?
- ◆ Do the instructors spend time with you to be sure that you understand the material?
- ◆ Have you had any problems with the school, the instructors or the classes?
- ◆ What do you like most about the school and program?
- ◆ What do you like least about the school and program?