

Suggested questions for parents to ask at College Orientations

1. School Alcohol and Drug Policies:
 1. What are the specific policies referring to underage drinking on campus?
 2. How are these policies enforced?
 3. Is there ever an occasion when parents are notified?
 4. What is the College policy regarding hazing involving alcohol abuse and other risky behaviors?

2. Prescription Drug Misuse/Abuse: The CDC recently announced that prescription drug abuse has reached epidemic proportions.
 1. In addition to the education programs required for admissions what other prevention programs are utilized?
 2. If you have a “continuing prevention program” are all students required to attend this program or just the students who have violated the policy?
 3. Assuming _(Name of School)_ offers/requires a prevention program is there an emphasis on Rx drug misuse particularly the dangers mixing alcohol with Rx drugs?
 4. Given the fact that Adderall and/or other drugs intended for people with ADHD are often abused by MANY COLLEGE students who think they can focus better irrespective of the fact that this drug is highly addictive and can cause major heart problems how does _(Name of School)_ educate students on the dangers of misusing this drug?
 5. Additional questions....

3. Mental Health Disorders: MH disorders often begin between the ages of 18-22 and should be differentiated from being home sick.
 1. Do they have a Counseling Center? Does the Counseling Center offer mental health screenings? Do they do outreach on campus?
 2. Does _(Name of School)_ help students learn to identify some of the mental health disorders that tend to begin between the ages of 18 and 22? For example, I am aware that depression and anxiety are often a major problem particularly for females. Most people don't realize or aren't able to identify the problem until it becomes extreme.
 3. Is there a mandatory program to help all students identify (for themselves and/or roommates/friends) some of these mental health issues? This could help intercede before he/she became impaired and unable to function in school and potentially prevent them from self-medicating through substance abuse which may lead to addiction. If not why not?

4. Parental Consent Form: Now that your child is legally considered an adult, parents can no longer access their child's personal or academic information; however, it is sometimes possible to have your child sign a parental consent form. This often allows parents access to some school information and may also give permission for the school to contact you. I would recommend utilizing this permission to allow the school to call if your child violates the alcohol and drug policy, or when grades seem to be declining.

Other questions:

- What are local college and university policies regarding alcohol sales and consumption on campus? How involved are the Greek organizations in the drinking environment? What are their policies and practices regarding the availability of alcohol at their parties?
- How many retail outlets and bars are there in the community? Do certain areas have high concentrations of retail outlets or bars?