



Questions To Ask When A College Coach Calls

When speaking with coaches, a prospective student-athlete should ask what the expectations are for the athletes in the program. Try to get an understanding about commitment and transitioning from high school to college. What is the try-out process? How many current athletes are there from each class? What does the average week in the life of the student-athlete consist of? It is also important to learn if the sport has a non-traditional (off-season) segment, what practice commitments there may be and the coach's overall philosophy. Likewise a prospect should inquire about strength and conditioning requirements before, during and after the season. Academic support services offered by the institution should not be overlooked. Other questions regarding coach's longevity, facilities and institutional support are pertinent as well. Remember that you are scouting a coach and a program as much as he is scouting you. Critical inquiry is important and a coach's hesitation at answering something should signal a red flag.

Academics

- 1) What are some of top academic departments at your school?
- 2) What academic Majors are on team?
- 3) How good is the department in my major?
- 4) Is there an Honors and Scholars program? How do you get accepted to it?
- 5) What percentage of your players graduate in four / five years?
- 6) What are some jobs that recent seniors have started with out of your program?
- 7) Tell me about the alumni network that you school / team has
- 8) Can athletes get first choice of class sections that meet at non-practice times, helping to avoid conflicts?
- 9) What is the school's policy on missed classes because of sport participation?
- 10) What is the current team's grade-point average?
- 11) What percentage of players stays in the program all four years?
- 12) What are the minimum academic eligibility requirements?
- 13) What are graduates of the program doing after school?
- 14) How many credit hours should I take in season and out of season?
- 15) Are there restrictions in scheduling classes around practice?
- 16) Is summer school available? If I need to take summer school, will it be paid for by the college?

Academic Support

- 1) Describe in detail your academic support program. (e.g.: Study-hall requirements, tutor availability, staff, class load, faculty cooperation)
- 2) What academic counseling or athletic academic advising services are available to student-athletes? Do the advisors work mostly with football and basketball student-athletes?
- 3) Are there tutors available to me if I am a good student (as opposed to only available to student-athletes who are failing classes)?
- 4) Is there academic support and tutoring available in and out of season?
- 5) Do I have to pay for any of the tutoring services? Are there limits on how much tutoring I can receive?
- 6) Are there any registration privileges for student-athletes (for example, registering early)?
- 7) Are there any special computer facilities reserved for student-athletes? If so, what hours are they open? Are there any laptop computers that travel with the teams?
- 8) What does the study group (or study table or evening study) program for student-athletes consist of? How many nights per week am I expected to attend?
- 9) If I have a diagnosed and documented disability, what kind of academic services are available?
- 10) If I am an honors student, what programs and scholarships are available to me?
- 11) What academic support programs are available to student-athletes?



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Recruiting

- 1) What position do you see me playing for your program?
- 2) How many freshman recruits are you trying to bring in?
 - a) Where do I stand on your recruiting depth chart?
- 3) How many returning players do you have at my position?
 - a) What other players may be competing at the same position?
- 4) Describe the other players competing at the same position.
- 5) Have you seen me play?
- 6) Have you talked with my coaches?
- 7) Will I have the opportunity to earn playing time as a freshman?
- 8) Will I be redshirted my first year?
- 9) What are preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situations?

Coaching

- 1) How would you best describe your coaching style? What is the style of play you want to see?
- 2) What is your roster size?
- 3) Do you have walk on tryouts?
- 4) Is my spot on team guaranteed?
- 5) Do you make cuts? Based on what criteria?
- 6) What are your goals for the team for this coming year? In the next four-years?
- 7) When does the head coach's contract end? How long does the coach intend to stay?

Time Expectations

- 1) What expectations do you have for training and conditioning?
- 2) What is the in-season time commitment?
- 3) What is the practice schedule after school starts?
- 4) Including meetings, training, travel, and matches, how much time is required?
- 5) Describe the typical day for a student-athlete.

Facilities

- 1) Do you have indoor facilities?
- 2) Are the facilities available to players outside of practice?
- 3) Are there plans for facility expansion and construction in the next few years?

Offseason

- 1) What are the physical/strength and conditioning requirements each year?
- 2) What does the fall season consist of?
- 3) What is the off-season regimen? -How much time is required in the off-season for conditioning and practice?
- 4) Do you have a strength and conditioning coach?
- 5) What type of summer time playing opportunities will be available?

Injuries

- 1) What facilities and staff are available to take care of injuries and rehab?
- 2) Is medical insurance required for my participation? Is it provided by the college?
- 3) If I am seriously injured while competing, who is responsible for my medical expenses?
- 4) What happens if I want to transfer to another school?



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Travel

- 1) How much class time is missed due to travel
- 2) What provisions are made for student-athletes who are traveling? If I miss an exam while traveling and competing on the road, what happens?
- 3) What types of travel accommodations are provided, i.e. food, transportation, and lodging?
- 4) Does the school underwrite all expenses or do athletes have to raise funds or spend out of pocket? (Pertains mainly to spring trips.)

College Life

- 1) What is a typical day for a student-athlete?

Financial Aid

- 1) Is there a financial aid contact person specifically for student-athletes?
- 2) Am I eligible for additional financial aid? Are there any restrictions?
- 3) How much financial aid is available for both the academic year and summer school?
- 4) If I'm injured, what happens to my financial aid?
- 5) What does your scholarship cover? How long does my scholarship last?
- 6) Exactly how much will the athletics scholarship be? What will and will not be covered?
- 7) Are there academic criteria tied to maintaining the scholarship?
- 8) What scholarship money is available after eligibility is exhausted to help me complete my degree?
- 9) What scholarship money is available if I suffer an athletics career-ending injury?
- 10) Will my scholarship be maintained if there is a change in coaches?
- 11) Under what circumstances would my scholarship be reduced or canceled?
- 12) What are my opportunities for employment while I am a student?
- 13) Are employment or work study opportunities available in the athletic department?
- 14) Who is financially responsible if I am injured while competing?

Final Question

- 5) What's the next step? What should I do? Do you see me as a serious possibility?