

CALLING THE COLLEGE COACH
10 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO ASK



1. How many players have you committed to my class? How many do you plan to commit? Be sure the program you are pursuing is still recruiting for your class. Remember, even if a program is done recruiting scholarship players, they may have roster spots for recruited walk-ons.

2. Do my scores (GPA, SAT) meet the admittance requirements of your college? Don't waste your time talking to a coach if you don't have a chance of getting into the school. Some schools let athletic programs admit students with lower scores than the average student, and some do not. Coaches usually ask to see your transcript/scores to be sure you are likely to be admitted to the school.

3. Does the school have the major I want or are there a variety of potential majors? Some prospects are entertaining schools because of the strength of the athletic program. Most are looking for a combination of academics and athletics. Be sure that the school offers the degree you want. Remember, nearly 50% of college students change majors at least once before graduation. Be sure the school has a lot of majors just in case.

4. How many seniors are you graduating this year and what are their positions? Juniors? This information can help you understand your chances of playing in your first two years. For example, if you are a forward and the school is graduating forwards in the next two years, you may play your first year. But if the program is not graduating forwards, you may sit the bench or be redshirted. Check out the team's roster online for specifics.

5. What is your program's style of play and how do you see me fitting in? It's important to know if your abilities fit into the schools style of play. Ask the coach if he/she sees you playing your current position or moving to a new one. You may be able to stream games from the athletic program's website. Many schools offer free live streaming. This is a great way to see for yourself how the team plays.

6. Which showcases/camps will you attend this year? By knowing the coach's schedule, you can make sure to get your information (resume, club name & game times, etc.) to the coaches ahead of time. You may even be able to influence your coach's choice of events to attend.

7. Would you like me to send you my showcase schedule when it is available? In the weeks before an event, coaches are preparing the recruiting schedule for the event. Get your schedules, game times and field locations to the coach early. Don't wait until the last days before an event to email the coach, or your games may not fit into his schedule at that time.

8. What is the graduation rate for your team? A low graduation rate may reflect a high transfer rate or other problems. A high transfer rate may be an indication that players are unhappy with the program.

9. How do you decide if a player will be redshirted during a season? Some players are recruited because the coaches sees them playing right away. Others show potential and coaches feel they will offer more in the years to come. Some coaches decide at the start of the year who will redshirt the season, while others wait until the season is under way. Redshirting may be a good idea as you may play more later in your career.

10. How are financial aid, academic aid and scholarship aid earned and/or distributed among recruits and the team? Financial aid packages can consist of athletic scholarships, academic scholarships, and/or need-based financial aid. It is important to understand how this will come together and whether these numbers may change over the four years. Some scholarships require that you meet a minimum GPA for the award to be continued the following year. Some programs will increase soccer scholarships if the player performs well during the four years.

Don't be shy when talking to college coaches.

They are interested in your personality, your intellect, and your level of interest in their school and team. Spend some time on their website and know how the team did the year before in their conference, if they qualified for the NCAA tournament, and other highlights of the season, so you can discuss their season confidently.