

ROCK BASKETBALL

“The Choice of a Lifetime Begins Here”

Selecting a college may be one of the most important decisions you will have to make in your life. There are several things that you might want to ask yourself about the schools you are considering. Is this the right school for me? Does it meet my academic needs? Am I going to have a legitimate opportunity to contribute to the athletic program?

These are just some of the questions you will need to ask yourself during the process. Below are some questions you should consider when given the opportunity to sit down with any college representative:

Questions for the Coaching Staff:

- What kind of academic support does the college provide? (Tutors, etc.)
- What is the team Grade Point Average (GPA)?
- What is the team graduation rate?
- What are some of the majors your players are studying?
- What is the conference competition like?
- What style of basketball do you play?
- What are your red-shirt procedures? Would I be red-shirted my freshman year?
- What position do you see me playing if I were to come to your school?
- How many players do you currently have on the roster at my position?
- Where do I stand on your recruiting list?
- What do you feel your team needs to do to improve from last season?
- What kind of goals have you set for yourself and for the team?
- What kind of goals have you set for the program as a whole?
- Do your players come by the office to talk to you regularly?
- Do any of your players play two sports?
- How many assistant coaches do you have working with you?
- What other roles do you have here on campus other than your coaching duties?

Questions for Team Members:

- What is the average class size?
- How are the dorms?
- What major are you in and are you enjoying what you are learning?
- Do the tutors do a good job?
- What is the morale of the team?
- Do the players like the coaching staff?
- Is the coach interested in your academics?
- Have you ever taken a class with coach?
- Does coach really find out if athletes do not attend class?
- Does coach have an academic support system set up for the athletes and/or the team?
- How long are the practices?
- What were your other school choices, and why did you pick **Slippery Rock University**?
- If you had to make this choice again, would you make the same decision?
- Are you having fun?

Scholarship Questions:

- What are my scholarship opportunities?
- Does the scholarship cover summer school?
- Will the scholarship cover a fifth year if necessary?
- Is my scholarship guaranteed for four years?

Questions for Admissions:

- What percent of graduates from my major receive jobs within three months of graduation?
- What percent of students graduate in four years?
- How is my major regarded, compared to other majors?
- For what major(s) is the school best recognized?
- What kind of reputation would my degree have if I earned it from this college?
- What is the average class size and ratio per professor?
- What is the percentage of the population involved in athletics?
- What other activities are the students involved in if they do not play sports?
- How accessible are counselors to me?
- Who teaches classes? (Professors, Teaching Assistants, etc.)
- What is the enrollment size of the college?
- What are the total tuition costs?
- What are my Scholarship / Grant / Financial Aid opportunities?
- What are my employment / work study opportunities on campus?
- What are the housing policies?
- May I sit in on a class in the major I am considering? (As a guest)

Summary Questions for Yourself:

- Did I have a good overall feeling about the school?
- How does it compare to my other choices?
- Would getting a degree from this school open up more career opportunities for me?
- Can I see myself living at this school for 9 months out of the year?
- If I do not qualify for any financial aid, could my family and I afford it?
- Am I willing to accept the student loans that are offered to me, knowing that I will have some type of debt to pay back when I am finished?
- Will I fit into the athletic program?
- Can I see myself playing within this program?
- Am I satisfied with the living arrangements?
- Am I satisfied with the academic opportunities?
- Would I go to school here if I were not going to play sports?

Many traditional questions will, and should, arise throughout your recruitment. The bottom line in choosing a college is simple and should be based on ... FIT.

Choose a school where YOU want to be, even if for some uncontrollable reason you could no longer participate athletically!

Now is the time to discuss realistically the chances of playing professionally, realize that a small percentage of players to make it to the professional league and an even smaller percentage compete for life. Go to college to receive an education, meet lifetime friends, compete in an exciting atmosphere, and have fun. When the final whistle blows what you will have gained will be experience, memories and stories for a lifetime. But the most important thing you will need to possess is a **COLLEGE DEGREE**. Do not make the mistake of selecting a college on the basis of athletics.

Choose a college because that is where you would want to spend the next four years of your life!

Compliments of Slippery Rock Basketball