



CARROT: ZONE

Zone-defining Questions

Understanding a college's Zone can be tricky. Colleges, like people, like to put their best foot forward. So, when you meet with a representative during your search or during your interview they may try to put a positive spin on their responses to your question. For instance, if you ask "what is the weather like here?" they may respond "we have a beautiful spring and summer here!" This may mean that winter is a living hell. While this technically is an honest answer, it won't give you the whole picture.

It is for this reason that you will have to dig deeper until you're satisfied with the answer. A satisfactory answer is one that will allow you to define a Zone. Don't push too hard.

Geography

- What is the geographic distribution of your students?
- Are there areas of the country that are underrepresented¹ on your campus?

Academic

- What are your popular majors? For men? For women?
- What are your least popular majors? For men? For women?
- Are there any specific departments or majors that are trying to attract more students?
- What type of student does well here?

Religious

- Is religion a big part of campus life?
- (If so) what are the predominant religions on campus?

Extracurricular

- To what extent do students get involved on campus?
- How does the school encourage participation outside of class?
- How would you describe the typical student's daily life?
- Is there a major theme on campus? Sports? Study? Science?
- What are the largest extracurricular activities or student clubs on campus? What are the smallest?

¹ Underrepresented is a great, Zone-defining word.

Ethnicity

- How diverse is your campus?
- What ethnic groups are most predominant?
- How would you describe the interactions between ethnic groups?
- What types of clubs or organizations cater to minority groups?