

CSI Conversation Starter Questions for Cornell College

Adapted from Ruffalo Noel Levitz's resource by Lana Low, Ph.D.

You may choose one or more of the questions to open the dialogue with the student regarding their score on each scale of the College Student Inventory. You do not need to ask questions about each category – base this on what you see in their report.

Academic Motivation Scales

Study Habits

1. How did you study when you were in high school?
2. Do you prefer to study with someone or alone?
3. Describe how you would normally prepare for a test.
4. What do you think about getting a tutor in challenging classes?

Reading Interests

1. What strategies have you used to read through material that you found challenging?
2. How have you approached large amounts of reading in the past?
3. What kinds of information do you find interesting to read on the internet?

Verbal Confidence/Math and Science Confidence

1. What were your best or worst subjects in high school/your last institution?
2. Are there any areas you anticipate will be challenging to you in college?

Commitment to College

1. When did you decide that you wanted to go to college?
2. Do you find yourself balancing competing priorities?
3. Did you ever consider doing something other than going to college?
4. Why did you choose Cornell College?

General Coping Scales

Social Engagement

1. What are social activities you enjoyed most in high school?
2. What is your preferred way to socialize - one on one, small group or large group?
3. Are there clubs or organizations you want to become part of this year?

Family Support

1. What are the greatest challenges you think your parents will face with you in college - distance from home, different schedule, missing you, or other reasons?

Capacity for Tolerance

1. Were there issues you encountered in your high school that challenged your own points of view?
2. What experiences do you have in interacting with people who hold viewpoints different than your own?

Career Plans

1. Have you thought about your academic major at this point?
2. Are there professions that you'd like to learn more about?

Financial Security

1. Have you and your parents been working with your financial assistance office?
2. Are you working or do you plan to work while you are in college?

Receptivity Scales

Request for academic help

1. Have you ever encountered assignments that you found difficult or even "impossible" to complete?
2. Where did you go for help with assignments in high school?
3. Would you seek tutoring if you encountered difficulty in your classes here or would you seek help from a classmate first?

Request for personal counseling

1. Are you aware of the services we have here should you or your friends ever need the services?

Request for social engagement

1. Have you met a lot of people in orientation so far?
2. Do you plan to stay in close contact with your friends from home?
3. Would you like to learn about ways to meet more students here?

Request for career guidance

1. Did your high school counselor meet with you to talk about your career choices?
2. Have you ever taken an aptitude test to find out what careers you may be suited for?
3. Would you like someone from our career services office contact you this semester?

Request for financial guidance

1. What are the greatest money concerns students have while they're in college?
2. Where have you gone in the past when you had questions about your finances?

Final Questions

1. Does your profile describe you accurately?
2. Are the recommendations helpful?
3. Are there changes you would make to this profile?