

Southside Student Success Project

Interview questions:

1. How old were you when you first began thinking about going to college?
 - a. Did you talk with anyone about your idea?
 - b. Was there anyone in particular who supported or encouraged you?

2. Thinking back to high school: how did you plan for going to college?
 - a. What information about college did you receive?
 - b. Who gave you the information?
 - c. How often were you contacted by colleges?

3. How did your family feel about your desire to go to college?
 - a. Were they excited, proud, concerned?
 - b. Were they able to offer financial support or encouragement?
 - c. *probe further based on the answer *

4. Tell me about your perception of Longwood when you were a prospective student.
 - a. What other schools did you apply to?
 - b. Why did you choose Longwood?

5. I would like to explore your experience at Longwood.
 - a. Thinking about the Admissions process -
 - i. What did you find the most challenging about the process?
 - ii. Did you receive an answer right away?

 - b. Thinking about the Financial Aid process-
 - i. Were you able to complete the forms by yourself? If no, who helped?
 - ii. What about the process was helpful?
 - iii. What was confusing?

 - c. Thinking about Summer Orientation -
 - i. What parts were helpful for you?
 - ii. What parts were not helpful?
 - iii. Did you have a parent or other trusted adult attend with you?

 - d. Thinking about registering for classes that first time -
 - i. Was anything particularly helpful or confusing??
 - ii. What or who was most helpful to you in making good class selections?
 - iii. Did you end up with any classes you did not want?

- e. Did you choose to live on campus or commute? How did you make your decision?
6. Tell me about New Lancer Days
 - a. What did you enjoy the most or find most helpful?
 - b. What did you enjoy the least or find least helpful?
 - c. Were you part of a group or did you spend more time by yourself?
 7. Tell me about your residence hall experience on campus.
 - a. What were the easiest parts/challenges of move-in day?
 - b. What did you like and dislike most about your room?
 - c. Describe your relationship with your roommate?
 - d. Did you feel comfortable in the residence hall environment?
 - e. Did you feel comfortable talking with your RA?
 - f. Was there anything about your living environment that caused concern?
 8. If you were commuting –
 - a. Were you able to easily connect with your LSEM class for activities?
 - b. What did joining the class from off-campus feel like?
 - c. Were you able to find good places to study between classes?
 - d. What about parking?
 9. Tell me about classes that first semester.
 - a. Did you have any trouble finding your classes? If so, who helped you? Were you comfortable asking for help?
 - b. Were you comfortable in the classroom environment?
 - c. Describe how you felt about your professors.
 - i. Were they helpful, approachable, friendly, etc.
 - d. Did you ever meet with them for help? Why or why not?
 - e. What was your favorite class? Why?
 - f. Did you dislike any classes? If yes, why?
 - g. What was your easiest class? What made it easy?
 - h. What was your hardest class? What made it hard?
 - i. Did you participate in group work of any kind? What was that like?
 10. Describe your study habits coming from high school.
 - a. Did those study habits work for you at Longwood?
 - b. What did you need to change?
 - c. What support did you need that you might not have found at Longwood?

11. What was academic advising like for you?

- a. What process did your advisor use to connect with you about advising?
- b. Did you feel comfortable going to your advisor for help?
- c. Was your advisor receptive to assisting you?
- d. How would you describe your relationship with your advisor?
- e. What would you consider an ideal relationship?

12. What support services did you use while at Longwood?

- a. Professor one-on-one?
- b. Student Success Center?
- c. Writing Center?
- d. Would you like to talk about any other resources that you used that you felt were helpful?

13. Are there any other services you wish Longwood had available to you?

14. Did you feel welcome and valued at Longwood?

15. What do you wish was different about your initial experience at Longwood?

16. Would you have been open to more direct guidance to help you navigate all of the new challenges that college brings?

17. Would you have been willing to enroll in a summer program before your freshman year to help you make a better transition into college?

18. What else would you like us to know that we could use to make the high school to college transition better for future students?