

Questions to Consider When Researching College Baseball Programs of Interest

Choosing a college baseball program is a big decision and you'll want to gather as much information as you can about each program you are considering. Here is a long list of things you may want to know about a program. Not every question on this list will be important to you, but doing quality research on schools will pay off in the long-run. Online research, good questions, and using all your resources will help you make an informed college baseball decision and improve your chances are finding a lasting fit!

Roster: Look at the current and archived rosters, stats, and bios. Google players at your position. Get creative and see how much you can find out and what patterns you see. What do the background, ability, size, etc. of their players tell you about how you might fit in at a given program? Here are questions to guide your research:

- How many players do they have on their roster?
- Looking back through the archives, how many players are leaving the program each year?
- How many seniors have stayed from freshman year?
- How many have dropped off?
- How many players are redshirting?
- How many players do they have at each position?
- Do they have a lot of upper-classmen returners at your position?
- Will they have a positional need for you in your recruiting class?
- Where are the players from?
- Do they have players from your area on their roster?
- Do they have a lot of players from one area or recruit all over?
- What physical size are the players at your position?
- What is the balance of right-handed hitters/pitchers versus left-handed hitters/pitchers?
- What do the player bios tell you about player interests and hobbies outside of baseball?
- What do the player bios tell you about their past baseball accomplishments? Do they match yours?
- Can you find evaluations of the players at your position from high school online?
- What else can you learn by looking at their roster?

Coaches: Explore coaching bios the same way you do for the players. Find the coach's social media and Google their name to see what comes up in addition to what is on the school website.

- What is the head coach's win-loss record and how long has he been there?
- How many players have they sent on to the next level?
- Which coach is responsible for your position group?
- Can you find any important information in their bio?
- Where have they been and what is their background?
- What personality traits can you pick up from the info available?
- Are there interviews or post-game speeches you can watch or listen to?
- Do they have social media? If so, what types of information and message are they sending?
- Do they give any information about what they look for in a player or recruit
- Do they have any information about their coaching or training philosophies? (small ball vs. power production, offensive philosophy, pitching philosophy, etc.)

- Do they host any camps?
- How is the strength of schedule?
- How far does the coach like to travel for games?

Incoming Recruiting Class: You can often find interesting information about incoming recruiting classes through online research. This research can give you important insight into roster composition and size.

- How many commitments do they already have for future classes and what does this say about when they will be actively recruiting your recruiting class?
- What type of info can you find on the current commits (physical size, velocity of pitchers, 60 times, accolades, etc.)?
- Do you have similar physical characteristics and skill sets to their current commits in your class?
- Do the number of players they are bringing in match the number leaving?

Coaching and Training Philosophies: These are great questions to explore when you have had steady dialogue with a program and know that they have interest in you. These philosophies will control your everyday activity and are things you'll want to know about before showing up on campus.

- What are the pillars of the hitting/pitching/offensive/defensive philosophies? How have these philosophies evolved over time? What are the pillars of the training programs?
- What is the system for developing players at your position? How do they see your skills fitting in with that development system?
- What are the daily routines for your position? What does a typical practice plan design look like?
- What changes would the coaches expect you to make to your game? What do they think you need to improve to have success at that level? How will the team's development and training plans help you make those changes?
- How individualized are the training protocols? Do they have a one-size-fits-all approach or do they allow flexibility for individual preferences.
- If you have workout routines/activities that you really like, will they allow you to keep doing these things once you are there?
- How is strength and conditioning integrated into the training? How much emphasis do they place on the weight room?
- How is recovery and nutrition integrated into training?
- What is the track record with arm injuries? How closely do players work with the trainers and team doctors?
- Do the coaches plan on being the pitching/hitting coach there when you are a senior?

Other areas to research...

Facilities:

- How do the facilities lend to your development?
- Are the baseball facilities on campus? If not, how far are they and how do you get there?
- Do they have facilities for poor weather/winter?

Alums:

- Does the program have any notable alums?
- Are players moving on to other programs (for 2-year schools) or the next level (for 4 year schools)?
- What types of professions are popular among alums?
- Are alums having success in their work life?

Location:

- Are there things to do on or near campus?
- Are there enough food options on or near campus?
- Where do players live? Dorms? Apartments? House? Off-Campus? On-Campus?
- What type of campus is it? City? Urban? Suburban?
- What is the weather like?

Sports Information:

- Does the program have social media accounts? If so, do they post regularly?
- Is the team website up-to-date?
- Are there long lapses in news stories or do they post throughout the year?
- Are stats up-to-date in season?