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<http://fiske.sourcebookscollege.com/index.php/studentquestionnaire>

The Fiske Guide to Colleges 2023

A publication of Sourcebooks

Dear College Student,

Remember how complicated it was to pick just the “right” college when you were a high school senior? For nearly 40 years, the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* has been helping students do just that. It contains profiles of the “best and most interesting” colleges in the nation—based in large part on perspectives and quotes from the students who attend them. Perhaps you used it yourself during your own college search!

We are now preparing the 2023 edition of the *Fiske Guide*, and we need your help. We want to find out as much as we can about your college—its academic strengths and weaknesses, what sort of students attend, the social life, extracurricular activities, and so forth. What, in short, makes your future alma mater a special place?

You have been selected by your school as one of a small number of current students to provide us with such information using an online questionnaire. The questions are open-ended—thus allowing you maximum freedom to express your ideas. If you feel that you are not in a position to answer any particular question, just skip it and move on to the next one.

A further note: We are all aware of how the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our normal patterns, including academic and social life on college campuses. However, we are also confident that, over time, much of what we previously thought of as “normal” in college life will be restored. So please do not respond to the questions below based on how things have been *this* year. Please think back to your on-campus experiences prior to the pandemic and what you are likely to find once a sense of “normalcy” has been restored. We would appreciate receiving your thoughts by **June 4, 2021**.

Thanks in advance for your help. We appreciate your assistance—and so will the tens of thousands of high school students and their families who may read your responses in the *Fiske Guide*.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Fiske
Editor-in-Chief
April 2021

1. How would you describe the **academic climate** of your school?

2. How would you rate the **quality of instruction** you have received?

3. Please suggest any **special academic programs** or **learning opportunities** that prospective students ought to know about. We're thinking of anything from living/learning communities and study abroad to interesting undergraduate research opportunities. Have any of these been important to you?

4. How would you rate the quality of **student support services**, such as career advising and counseling services, that your school offers? Are any of these services particularly strong? Or weak?

5. Describe the **general character of students** at your school. What do they have in common?

6. How **diverse is the student body**—racially, socioeconomically, geographically, and otherwise? Who might have a tough time fitting in?

7. How would you describe the **political climate** at your school? Are there any hot-button social or political issues?

8. Has your school taken any new steps to deal with the national issue of **sexual assault**? Are they effective? How would you rate campus safety in general?

9. Tell us about **housing**. How are the accommodations? Is there any trouble getting a room?

10. What about the **dining facilities**? How good are the meals? Are the provisions for special tastes and needs satisfactory?

11. Please describe the **party culture** on your campus. Do Greek organizations set the tone for social life? Are campus policies regarding alcohol effective?

12. Other than parties, what is the **social life** on campus like? Does the surrounding area offer a good social scene?

13. What are the annual **festivals, athletic rivalries, or other traditions** that make your school unique and interesting?

14. Like students themselves, every college and university has its own **unique institutional personality** that differentiates it from other schools. How would you characterize the special culture of your school?

15. What is the biggest way that you've seen your school **evolve** since your first semester there?

16. What are students' **biggest complaints** about your school? Is there anything you would like to improve?

What is your **major**?

What is your **current year**?

Freshman
Sophomore
Junior
Senior
Other

Which of the following best describes your **primary learning environment** during the 2020–2021 academic year?

In-person classes on campus
Remote learning at home or away from campus
Remote learning on or near campus
A combination of in-person classes and remote learning at home
Other

Thanks again for your help!