



CSI Conversation Starters – Form C

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Developmental Based Advising

Instructions: You may choose one or more of the questions below to open the dialogue with the student regarding his/her score on each scale. Generally it is not necessary to ask all questions. Feel free to add your own questions.

Academic Motivation

Study Skills

1. What are the greatest challenges you face in keeping up with your studies?
2. How do you normally prepare for tests?
3. Do you prefer to study alone or in a group?

Reading Habits

1. Do you like to read? Books, magazines? Web?
2. Does your job require a lot of reading? What kind?
3. Are you concerned about the amount of reading required for your coursework?

Use of Technology

1. How often do you use a computer?
2. Have you had to use the computer for any of your courses thus far? If so, how?
3. Have you thought about/explored ways to improve your level of comfort with computers?

Verbal Skills

1. Do you like to write?
2. Do you have concerns about the writing required in college?
3. What areas concern you most? Vocabulary? Organization? Spelling? Other?

Math Skills

1. Tell me about your past experiences with math. Were they positive? Negative?
2. Do you have concerns about courses that require math skills?
3. How have you handled your challenges with math in the past?

Commitment

1. What made you decide to go/return to college?
2. What are the greatest sacrifices you have had to make?
3. Does it still seem like the right decision for you? Why? Why not?

Attitude Toward Educators

1. Describe the best teacher you have ever had.
2. Do most educators treat students fairly?
3. Do you find that most educators are genuinely concerned about students?

General Coping Scales

Personal Support

1. Was your family happy with your decision to enroll in college?
2. What has been their greatest adjustment?
3. Are you able to balance study time and family time reasonably well?

Life and Career Planning

1. Have you thought about your program of study or career choice at this point?
2. What influenced your decision most?
3. Are there others (programs or careers) you're considering?

Financial Security

1. Is college more or less expensive than you thought?
2. What was your greatest surprise? Books? Tuition? Fees?
3. Have you increased or decreased the number of hours you're working?

Receptivity Scales

Receptivity to Academic Assistance

1. What has been your most challenging course thus far?
2. Could you have benefited from help with any of your assignments?
3. Were you able to identify sources of help? Would you consider help?

Receptivity to Career Planning

1. Have you ever taken any aptitude tests to find out what careers you're best suited for?
2. Are you aware of the career services we have here?
3. Would you like to have someone from that office contact you?

Receptivity to Financial Guidance

1. Have you encountered any unexpected expenses thus far?
2. Are there other sources of financial support you have considered?
3. Would it be helpful to talk to someone in our financial aid office:
 - a. About additional sources of financial aid?
 - b. About ways to manage your finances while you're going to college?

Final Questions

1. Does this profile describe you accurately?
2. What changes would you make?

Strengths-Based Advising

Instructions: These questions are designed for advisors who want to use a strengths-based approach to guide the student interview. The questions focus on the strengths the student brings to the interview and how to use these strengths to actively engage in the college experience. Feel free to add your own questions.

Academic Motivation

Study Skills

1. When it comes to keeping up with your studies, what are your greatest strengths?
2. How do you normally prepare for tests?
3. Do you prefer to study alone or in a study group?

Reading Habits

1. What is your favorite type of reading? Books? Magazines? Web?
2. Does your job require a lot of reading? What kind?
3. How will your leisure reading help you with reading requirements in your coursework?

Use of Technology

1. How often do you use a computer?
2. Have you had to use the computer for any of your courses thus far? If so, how?
3. Have you had your level of comfort with computers helped you?

Verbal Skills

1. What is the most positive feedback you have received about your writing?
2. What are your areas of greatest strength? Vocabulary? Organization? Spelling? Other?
3. How will you use these strengths to help you with the writing requirements in college?

Math Skills

1. Tell me about your most positive experiences with math.
2. Do you look forward to courses that allow you to use your math skills?
3. How will you use your positive experiences to help you with future math courses?

Commitment

1. How did you decide that going/returning to college was right for you?
2. How would you describe the sense of personal accomplishment you have experienced as a student?
3. What experiences help you confirm that you made the right decision about college?

Attitude Toward Educators

1. Describe the best teacher you have ever had.
2. Have you observed that most educators and students treat each other with respect?
3. How do educators let students know they are genuinely concerned about them?

General Coping Scales

Personal Support

1. How did your family let you know they supported your decision to enroll in college?
2. How has their feedback helped you since you enrolled?
3. How are you able to balance study time and family time successfully?

Life and Career Planning

1. What are your thoughts about your program of study or career choice at this point?
2. What/Who has influenced your thinking most?
3. What other programs or careers are compatible with your strengths?

Financial Security

1. Is college more/less expensive than you thought?
2. What was your greatest surprise? Books? Tuition? Fees?

3. Have you increased/decreased the number of hours you're working?

Receptivity Scales

Receptivity to Academic Assistance

1. How have you been able to meet the challenges of difficult courses successfully?
2. How did you go about finding the help you needed?
3. What resources have you identified to help you with future assignments?

Receptivity to Career Planning

1. How did you go about finding out what career(s) you were best suited for?
2. How do you plan to use the career services we have here?
3. Would you like to have someone from that office contact you?

Receptivity to Financial Guidance

1. How have you been able to deal with any unexpected expenses since you enrolled?
2. How did you go about identifying resources to help you?
3. How have you used our financial aid/services office?
 - a. For additional sources of financial aid
 - b. Suggestions on ways to manage your finances while you're going to college.

Final Questions

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