

Grad Program - Interview Questions

Interview questions are broad, but with planning, you can bring focus to each one.

1. Tell me about yourself.

2. Why are you interested in this program?

Discuss your *interest* in the university/program/field of study.

3. Why are you a good fit for the program?

Talk about your academic experiences and experiences outside classroom; transferable *skills*.

4. What makes you different and stand out among other candidates?

Discuss your *values* as they relate to the school's/program's mission and the *core competencies* that show you will fit in with the culture of the program. If possible, explain how you bring diversity of culture, thought or experiences to their school.

5. What are your strengths as they relate to the kind of work we will prepare you for?

Describe one weakness.

Describe 3 strengths related to the field of study and be sure to address the question about weakness. Choose a weakness you have recognized and are working on; talk about the way you have been working on it and how you are improving. This shows your flexibility and self-motivation.

6. Behavioral Interviewing

Research shows that past work behavior can predict future behavior with over 55% accuracy, so employers are interested in how you approached work related tasks and problem situations in the past. Giving examples can demonstrate a number of skills and competencies that are important to an employer. Prepare 3 or 4 examples of when you showed initiative and saw a positive result, or when you successfully challenged an idea. Keep your scenarios focused and brief by using STAR (this is also useful when preparing to talk about strengths):

- **Situation/Task:** The details of a problem or task at a past job or internship.
- **Action:** The action you took and what influenced your decision.
- **Result:** The positive outcome of your involvement in the situation.

Sample Questions:

- Tell us about a time when you worked with someone different from you?
- Tell me about a situation in which your ethics seemed like they may be compromised.
- Tell us about a time you took the initiative to improve a process.
- When did you have a very busy schedule and how did you manage it?
- Tell me when you used communication skills to explain technical information to someone new to the topic?

7. Do you have anything to add?

Bring up the points you prepared to discuss that have not yet come up in conversation and briefly summarize important points that have been covered in the interview. Don't be shy to remind the interviewer at the end that this is your top choice and you want to be accepted into the program.

8. Do you have any questions?

Have open-ended questions prepared to facilitate conversation and show you did research on the program.