



Before the Interview

□ Research the employer

During the interview you may be asked what information you know about the employer. Therefore, prior to the interview, it's important to gather as much relevant information about the employer as you can. The more you know, the more confident you are likely to feel. Helpful information includes: the company's mission & vision, industry trends, recent news stories involving the employer, their clients and/or customer base, and company competitors. You also need to be able to answer the question "Why are you interested in working for us?"

□ Prepare for the "tell me about yourself" question

This question is an opportunity to describe your qualifications and career aspirations, not your love for Netflix and ramen. Your answer should consist of a 2-3 minute overview of your professional and academic experiences and accomplishments. You should highlight the things that are most relevant to the job/internship. This could include: coursework, projects, internships, research, on-campus jobs, and service/leadership opportunities.

□ Practice interview responses

It's important to be prepared for the types of interview questions that an employer will ask. A majority of the questions you will be asked during your interview may be behavioral interview questions. Behavioral interview questions evaluate your past experiences to give the employer a sense of how you might perform in the future. These questions should be answered by crafting specific stories or examples using the STAR format (see below). Each answer should be 2-3 minutes long and highlight your role in the story. Also, review the experiences, projects, and activities on your resume. Know what you've done in each opportunity and be able to explain it using the STAR format.





□ **Prep yourself for the day-of events**

You should arrive 10-15 minutes before the interview. Be sure to dress appropriately—typically this means business professional or business casual. If you are unsure of what to wear, ask your career consultant or the recruiter you've been working with throughout the process. Bring extra copies of your resume as well as your portfolio or any work samples that are relevant. You should also bring a list of questions you plan to ask the interviewer.

During the Interview

□ **Be confident and positive**

Remember, everyone you meet that day is an “interviewer.” Be courteous and cheerful to everyone you interact with. Be sure to greet your interviewer with a firm handshake and a positive attitude. Try to relax, be yourself, and think of the interview as a conversation between you and the interviewer.

□ **Respond to questions with strong answers**

A strong answer should include a specific example or story that you use to showcase your skills and qualifications. Be sure to share the result of your story or solution to the specific problem. The best way to organize your answer is using the STAR format (see previous page).

□ **Ask thoughtful questions**

Prepare a list of 5-8, well-researched questions to ask the interviewer at the conclusion of each interview. Your questions should reflect the amount of research you have done on the employer.

After the Interview

□ **Evaluate your performance**

Each interview should be a learning experience. Write down everything you think you handled right and wrong, so you can adjust your responses for the next interview. Also, make a note of any information you may need to include in your thank you notes.

□ **Send thank you notes/emails**

It's important to follow up after your interview. Send each interviewer a personalized thank you note—email format is common practice. In the note, emphasize your qualifications and skillset in relation to the position. Try to mention something you and the person talked about that made this a memorable or enjoyable experience in order to personalize the letter. Send separate thank you notes to each individual you interviewed with, and make sure they are different from one another.

Need additional help?

The best way to prepare for an interview is to meet with your career consultant to conduct a practice mock interview. Additionally, check our website, online videos, and additional Quick Tips about interviewing.