

Sample Interview Questions for Graduate School

ABOUT YOU

- Tell me about yourself.
- What factors influenced you to go to graduate school?
- What skills and personal characteristics make you a good candidate for this graduate program?
- In college, what courses did you enjoy the most? The least? Why?
- How would your professors describe you?
- How do you intend to finance your education?
- What is your greatest strength? What is one of your weaknesses?
- What do you do in your spare time? Do you have any hobbies or outside interests?
- Tell me about a major accomplishment and how you achieved it.
- We are looking at many other candidates for this graduate program; what sets you apart from the other candidates?



PAST EXPERIENCE

- How do you feel your undergraduate studies have prepared you for this program?
- Describe your past work/volunteer experiences and how what you have learned from them will help you in graduate school.
- Describe any research project you've worked on. What was the purpose of the project and what was your role in the project?
- Describe your past research experiences and how they will help you in graduate school.
- What problems do you expect to face while attending graduate school? How will you handle these?



FUTURE-RELATED QUESTIONS

- What are your goals for the next five years? 10 years?
- What contributions do you plan to make to the field?
- What do you plan to specialize in?
- If you're not accepted into graduate school, what are your plans?

CAREER/PROGRAM-RELATED QUESTIONS

- Why are you interested in our graduate program?
- What do you hope to gain from our graduate program?
- How do you see this program fitting into your career goals?
- What other schools are you considering?
- What recent professional articles or books have you read?
- What do you believe to be the major trends in your intended career field at this time?
- What do you think about _____ (current event)?
- What do you think is the most important development in the field over the past 25 years, and why?

BEHAVIOR-BASED QUESTIONS

- Give an example of an ethical dilemma you faced and explain how you resolved it.
- Tell me about a situation in which you took initiative.
- Tell me about a time you assumed a leadership role.
- Tell me how you handle stress.
- Tell me about a time you had a number of assignments due. How did you make sure you completed all of them on time and did a good job?
- Tell me about a time you were confronted by a fellow student, co-worker, or a customer. How did you handle it to resolve the conflict?

**The key to a great interview is preparation and practice!
Make sure that you have done your homework well in
advance! Make an appointment with a career counselor in
the Career Center for help preparing for interviews or to
do a mock interview. 609-652-4650**