



Graduate School Interviews

Sample Interview Questions

School specific questions

- What makes our school different from others to which you have applied?
- What made you decide to apply to this school/program?
- What do you believe that you will contribute as a student in this school/program?

Preparation questions

- How did you get interested in this field?
- What makes you a strong applicant?
- How have you prepared for this program?
- What activities have you done that contribute to your preparation?

Research questions (if pursuing a program involving research)

- Tell me about your previous research experience.
- What did you do in your research project?
- What difficulties have you encountered in your research, and how did you handle them?
- What kind of research would you like to pursue?

Challenging questions

- What is a hobby you enjoy? How do you think that hobby relates to becoming a [career name]?
- What is your plan if you don't get accepted to school this year?
- What is the weakest part of your application? What have you done to address this aspect of your application?
- How does this degree relate to your long term goals?
- Describe your writing style.

Questions for the school

Be sure to prepare some questions to ask. The interview process is not just an evaluation of you as an applicant, but also a chance for you to learn more about the program. Some questions you might want to consider are:

- What is the average time-to-degree for students? What is the shortest and longest time a student has been in this program?
- What do graduates of this program do?
- How many students (all years, not just incoming) are in the program?
- What are the expectations for completing this program?
- How am I supported through my program? Do I have an advisor? Is there a student affairs office?
- What do graduate students do for fun?
- What financial aid options are available?
- How do the graduate students in this program get along with each other?

Additional resources on interviews can be found on The Career Center website at: www.careercenter.illinois.edu/interview