

College Interview Questions

Tell me about yourself.

- Let the interviewer know something special about you. Do you watch the history channel for fun? Can you play multiple instruments?

Tell me about your family.

- Who is in your immediate family? What is each person's role or profession? Do you have Sunday dinners together with extended family? If there isn't a lot of family support, don't be negative, instead share who you look to as family and why. Do you live with your grandparents because they live in a better school district?

Why are you interested in our college? What makes our college stand out over others you are looking at?

- Check out admissions, college life, and your major(s) of interest on the specific college's website prior to your meeting so you can have an educated answer showing that you know what the college offers.

Do you have any questions? What can I tell you about our college?

- Avoid questions that you can find the information out on the college's website. If speaking to an alumnus you can ask what opportunities they took advantage of while in college that helped them best prepare for their future. If speaking with an admissions counselor, you can ask for further explanation of a specific major or what they hear from their students as the best opportunities available on campus and in its surrounding community.

Who has influenced you, who is your favorite character in a novel, what superhero would you be?

- They are really asking who you look up to and why. If you answer Superman it may be because you are saving the community through a service.

What are your areas of interest?

- You should share what major you want to study and why. If you do not have a specific major then share what areas of interest you have and why; that is still a strong answer. You should also include a few of the extra-curricular activities you are passionate about. Did you help organize the Spirit Parade, do you work in the community garden, did you collect used review books for other students to use?

What will you contribute to our campus? What makes you special?

- Answer what you are good at and provide an example. Are you a natural leader in the classroom, who often helps peers understand difficult material? If so, you are good at organizing study groups because they help both you and your peers be successful. If you were in Student Council then you could join the event coordinating committee to help support student life.

What is a challenge you have overcome?

- Not every challenge has to be huge. Did you have mono or a concussion and have to catch up on missed work? Did you fail your driver's test? No matter what your challenge, be sure to share how you overcame it.

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What is your area of weakness and strength?

- You should only provide one area of weakness, but you may share more than one strength. Just like a challenge you have faced, you want to share how you've worked on that weakness. If you take on a lot of tasks, how do you organize your life so that you don't miss a commitment? If you're a weak test taker, what study skills have you learned? Be sure to answer why you consider your strength to be what it is.

What do you do for fun? What did you do over the summer?

- "Play video games" is not a good answer, unless you created your own. Colleges want someone who is productive in their spare time. Do you run, write poetry, or read? Show the interviewer that you are well-rounded.

What are your long term goals? What do you hope to do after graduation?

- This is the time to answer where you see yourself in 5 and 10 years. If you are not sure what your career is going to be, it is fine to say you are interested in the medical profession and you will take advantage of the college's offerings to better know if you should lean towards the research or application side of the field.

What book are you currently reading? What is your favorite book? What is your favorite movie? What is your favorite sitcom?

- Think in advance of what these might be and why you enjoy them.

If you could do something over what would it be?

- You don't need to say any large mistake you've made; rather you may wish you took part in community band when it no longer fit into your school schedule.

How do you define success?

- Avoid a materialistic answer. An answer that shows learning, growth, and development of self or others is what the interviewer is looking for.

What makes you a positive role model to your peers or siblings?

- What is your strength and how do you emulate it to those around you?

Words of Advice

*Jot down your answers to the above question and practice answering them aloud, without having your written answers nearby. Avoid memorizing your answers verbatim so that you don't sound rehearsed during the interview.

*If available and a positive representation of yourself, bring your resume and transcript.

*If you find the interviewer is asking the same question in multiple ways throughout the interview, try to provide a different answer for each one, instead of listing all of your accomplishments for every answer.