

Interview Questions Asked of College Graduates

The purpose of the interview is to find out about your background and your potential as an employee. Employers are looking for enthusiasm, motivation, self-knowledge and experience indicative of leadership ability as well as a background demonstrating the specific skills that they feel are necessary for their employees to possess.

The following list of questions should give you an idea of what you might be expected to answer during an interview either on campus or in an employer's office. Obviously, no interviewer will ask all of these questions. Nor is this list inclusive of all the questions that you might be asked. However, answering them for yourself will help to prepare you for the interviewing situation. In thinking about your answers to these questions, remember to emphasize your strengths and accomplishments along with an experience documenting your skills.

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. How do you spend your spare time?
3. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
4. What have you done which shows initiative and willingness to work?
5. What are your own special abilities?
6. What specific goals, other than those related to your occupation, have you established for yourself for the next 10 years?
7. What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
8. What do you REALLY want to do in life?
9. How would you describe yourself?
10. How do you think a friend or professor who knows you well would describe you?
11. What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?
12. What two or three accomplishments have given you the most satisfaction? And why?
13. Will you relocate? Does relocation bother you?
14. Do you have a geographical preference? Why?
15. Are you willing to travel?
16. Why do you think you might like to live in the community in which our company is located?
17. What major problems have you encountered and how did you deal with it?
18. What have you learned from your mistakes?
19. In what school activities have you participated? Why? Which did you enjoy the most?
20. What percentage of your college expenses did you earn? How?
21. Do you feel that you have received a good education?
22. Do you feel you have done the best scholastic work of which you are capable?
23. Have you ever had any difficulty getting along with fellow students and faculty?
24. How has your college experience prepared you for a business career?
25. Describe your most rewarding college experience.
26. Why did you select your college or university?
27. What led you to choose your field or major of study?
28. What college subjects did you like the best? Why?
29. What college subjects did you like the least? Why?
30. If you could do so, how would you plan your academic study differently? And Why?
31. What changes would you make in your college or university?
32. Do you have plans for continued study? An advanced degree?
33. Do you think that your grades are a good indication of your academic achievements?
34. What have you learned from participation in extracurricular activities?
35. In what type of positions are you most interested?
36. What jobs have you held?
37. Why did you choose your particular field of work?

38. What are your ideas on salary?
39. Why do you think you would like this particular type of job?
40. Are you looking for a permanent or temporary job?
41. What do you think determines a person's progress in a good company?
42. Can you take instructions without feeling upset?
43. What have you learned from some of the jobs you have held?
44. What are your long-range and short-range goals and objectives?
45. When and why did you establish these goals?
46. Who do you plan on preparing yourself to achieve your career goals?
47. What are the most important rewards you expect in your career?
48. What do you expect to be earning in five years?
49. Why did you choose the career for which you are preparing?
50. Which is more important to you, the money or the type of job?
51. Why should I hire you?
52. What qualifications do you have that make you think that you will be successful in business?
53. How do you determine or evaluate success?
54. What do you think it takes to be successful in a company like ours?
55. In what ways do you think you can make a contribution to our company?
56. What qualities should a successful manager possess?
57. Describe the relationship that should exist between a supervisor and subordinates.
58. If you were hiring a graduate for this position, what qualities would you look for?
59. In what kind of a work environment are you most comfortable?
60. How do you work under pressure?
61. In what part-time or summer jobs have you been most interested? Why?
62. How would you describe the ideal job for you following graduation?
63. Why did you decide to seek a position with this company?
64. What do you know about our company?
65. What two or three things are most important to you in your job?
66. Are you seeking employment in a company of a certain size? Why?
67. What criteria are you using to evaluate the company for which you hope to work?
68. Are you willing to spend at least six months as a trainee?