

# College Student Interview Questions

Prepare meaningful questions to ask your interviewee. Below are many possible questions. You can't ask all of them, but the list will help you choose those you really want answered.

## General questions about your interviewee's college and major:

1. What are the various majors available in this specific college?
2. What types of internships do companies offer students studying in this field?
3. In what ways is your field changing?
4. How is the economy affecting this industry?
5. What's the employment outlook in your field? What's the demand is for people with this degree?
6. What are the growth areas or coming changes in this field?
7. What parts of the country offer the best opportunities in this field?
8. What is the typical freshman course load?
9. What is the salary range for higher levels in this occupation?
10. Other than money, fringe benefits, travel, etc., what kinds of job satisfaction does this career yield?
11. What do you find unique about your career field?
12. In your experience, what problems have you found regarding working in this career?
13. What skills or personal characteristics do you feel most contribute to success in this industry?
14. What sacrifices have you had to make to succeed in this field? Were the sacrifices worth it?
15. When people leave this career, what are the usual reasons?
16. What are the typical entry-level job titles and functions?
17. What entry-level jobs offer the best opportunities for the greatest amount of learning?
18. What trends in the field would be most likely to affect someone just entering this career now?
19. What kinds of people experience the greatest success in this field?
20. What is the most important thing that someone planning to enter this career should know?

## All about your interviewee's course of study:

1. What is your specific major?
2. Do other majors in your college have the same rigor or level of difficulty?
3. Have you changed for major since you started?
4. What do your classes require of you in a typical week? Homework? Lab hours? Work study?
5. What are your classes like?
6. Is it what you expected it would be when you first started?
7. What kind of hours do you normally work?
8. Do you have to do much work on the weekends?
9. Are the demands on your time specific to this major, or to this field of work in general?
10. What kinds of difficulties or obstacles do you deal with?
11. What do you do if you can't solve a problem on your own?
12. How easy is it to ask for help from your professors?

13. What systems are in place for dealing with conflicts?
14. What constraints, such as time and funding, make your work more difficult?
15. What kinds of decisions and choices do you make?
16. Describe some of the toughest situations you've faced in this major.
17. To what extent do you interact with other students?
18. How does your time vary? Are there busy and slow times or is the work fairly constant?
19. Which other departments, colleges, or levels do you regularly interact with?
20. How much flexibility do you have in determining which classes you take?
21. Is your work primarily individual or do you sometimes in groups or teams?
22. How are teams or groups organized for you or do you get to choose them yourself?
23. What do you personally find most satisfying in your studies? Most challenging?
24. What do you like and not like about studying this subject?
25. Are there aspects to your education that are repetitious?
26. Is multi-tasking a skill that is required for this field?
27. What projects have you worked on that have been particularly interesting?
28. What particular skills or talents are most essential to be effective in your major?
29. How did you learn these skills?
30. What are the educational prerequisites for getting into jobs in this field?
31. What other types of credentials or licenses are required?
32. Is graduate school recommended? An MBA? PhD? Another degree or certifications?
33. What obligations do your professors place on you outside of the ordinary work week?
34. What social opportunities go along with being in this college or major?
35. Are there related clubs or organizations you are expected to join?
36. Are there other things you are expected to do outside class?
37. How has your studies affected your lifestyle?
38. To what extent is it a challenge in terms of juggling work and family life?
39. What are the major frustrations of this major?
40. If you could change anything about your requirement, what would it be?
41. Is there a great deal of changing majors?
42. What interests you least about your classes, or creates the most stress?
43. If you changed majors, what would switch to?

### **About preparing to study in this field:**

1. Does your major relate to any experiences or studies you had in high school?
2. How well did your high school experience prepare you for this major?
3. What past courses have proved to be the most valuable to you?
4. What courses do you wish you had taken in high school that would have better prepared you?
5. If you were a high school student again, what would you do differently to prepare you for college?
6. How important are grades/GPA for obtaining a job in this field?

7. What do you feel is the best educational preparation for this major?
8. How do you think IRHS's reputation is viewed when it comes to admissions at this school?
9. How did you prepare for this major?
10. If you were entering this major all over again, how would you change your preparation?

### **About your interviewee's educational path:**

1. In what way did this type of study interest you and how did you get started?
2. What was your focus in high school?
3. Describe your application/admission experience.
4. What experiences or internships have led you to study this field?
5. What kinds of things did you do before you entered this school?
6. Which aspects of your background have been most helpful?
7. What other major can you pursue with the same educational background?
8. What were the keys to success in this major?
9. How did you get where you are and what are your long-range goals?
10. What is the next step in your education?
11. If your studies progress as you like, what would be the next step in your path?
12. Where do you see yourself in five years?
13. If you weren't able to work in this field, what kinds of work do you feel prepared to do?
14. If you could start all over again, would you choose the same path? Why? What would you change?

### **About the culture of your interviewee's school:**

1. Why did you decide to go to this school?
2. What do you like most about this school?
3. How does your school differ from its competitors?
4. Why do students choose this school?
5. What is the school's relationship with its students?
6. How optimistic are you about the school's future and your future with the school?
7. Has the school made any recent changes to improve its practices and possibilities for students?
8. What does the school do to contribute to its students' career placement?
9. What systems are in place for students to give the school feedback and suggestions?
10. How does the school make use of technology for internal communication and research? (Use of e-mail, Internet, intranets, World Wide Web, videoconferencing, etc.)?
11. What other technologies are integral to the school's operation?
12. How would you describe the atmosphere in your particular major? Is it formal or more laid-back?
13. How would you describe the morale level of people who go to school here?
14. Do you participate in many social activities with other students?
15. Is there flexibility in class hours, work schedule, place of residence, etc.?
16. What values are most important in this school (security, high income, variety, independence)?
17. What kind of student support programs are offered? Is it highly structured or more informal?

18. Does the company offer an employee discount on the products it sells?
19. What's the best thing about the school?
20. How are grades earned? Does the grading system seem consistent and fair?
21. How does the school recognize outstanding accomplishments of its students?
22. What does the school reward?
23. Are there people within or outside your department that the school holds up as heroes?
24. What is the typical admission process at your school?
25. What does the school do to foster innovation and creativity in its students?

### **About opportunities for advancement within this field of study:**

1. What is the highest-level degree one can hold in this field?
2. What is a typical educational path in this field?
3. What is the average length of time for student to earn the degree you're seeking?
4. How rapidly do students find job in this field?
5. What incentives or disincentives are there for staying in the same major?
6. Would someone in this field need to relocate after graduation to find a job in this field?
7. If I performed well at this school, where could I expect to be in five years?

### **Seeking general advice from your interviewee:**

1. How could I obtain the experience necessary to be accepted in this college or major?
2. What do you wish you'd known before you entered this field of study?
3. What are the major qualifications for success in your classes?
4. What are the skills that are most important as a student in this field?
5. What courses should I be taking in high school to prepare?
6. How can I assess whether or not I have the skills needed to pursue this major?
7. Do you have any advice for someone interested in studying in this field?
8. What kinds of experience, paid or unpaid, would help someone applying to this degree program?
9. What other kinds of schools provide a similar education for its students?
10. What other related programs would you recommend I consider?
11. What special advice do you have for a student seeking to apply to this school?
12. Do you have any special word of warning or encouragement as a result of your experience?
13. What should I do to prepare myself for emerging trends and changes in this field of study?
14. How would you assess the experience I've had so far in terms of entering this field?
15. What qualifications would you be looking for if you were an admissions officer in this college?
16. Would you be willing to answer more questions if I need additional advice in the future?
17. Would you mind taking a look at my application to see if you have any suggestions?