

Sample Questions for a College Interview

College interviews give the college administrator, alumnus, or representative an opportunity to develop an impression about who you are as a learner, as a community member, and as a student. Below is a list of possible questions for college interviews. You needn't have a pat answer for each, but you may want to review them and think about answers to prepare.

1. How did you first hear about our college?
2. What are your career goals - - long-range and short-range? Where do you see yourself in five, ten, or fifteen years?
3. What accomplishments have you achieved or activities have you participated in that have had a particular effect on you and your life?
4. What might you be interested in as a future profession?
5. What are your strengths and weaknesses? (see Tip below)
6. How familiar are you with this college and its programs?
7. Which one of your activities has given you the most satisfaction?
8. If you had high school to do over again, would you do anything differently? (Be careful not to dwell on regrets but rather to think of missed opportunities.)
9. What particular "life goals" are you seeking to achieve or pursue?
10. What are your priorities in selecting a college?
11. How would you describe your high school, and how would you change it?
12. Discuss your most stimulating intellectual experience.
13. Tell me about something you have really wanted and had to go after on your own.
14. What is the most significant contribution you have made to your school?
15. What books or articles have made a lasting impression on your way of thinking?
16. Have you read deeply into any one author or field?
17. Have you ever thought of not going to college? What would you do?
18. What will be the "good life" for you twenty years from now?
19. How would you describe yourself as a person?
20. If I handed you my telephone and let you talk to one living person, to whom would you talk? Why?
21. Why should we accept you at our college?

TIP: When asked about strengths and weaknesses, think carefully before responding. Weaknesses are areas for improvement and can be phrased in a positive light. You certainly don't want to be complaining about something in your personality that you wish to change.

TIP: While it is essential that you be honest in your application and interview, you needn't share information that is not pertinent to the application. If you have any history that you are concerned about, speak with your house counselor and practice your honest, yet forward-thinking response.