



Acing The College Interview

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- B.A., Johns Hopkins Univ.
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- Certificate in College Counseling, UCLA
- Interviewed JHU applicants as a volunteer for 15 years
- Opened Magellan in 2011
- Visited 100+ colleges in past three years
 - Focus on COLLEGE FIT
 - Clients have been accepted to Princeton, Cornell, MIT, Georgetown, UCLA, UC Berkeley, and many more!

Introducing Myself



IMPORTANT IDEAS FROM TODAY'S SESSION

- Interview basics
- Know the goals of your interview
- What will my interviewer ask me?
- How can I be memorable?
- What questions should I ask my interviewer?



INTERVIEW BASICS

How should I dress?

- “Business” or “Business casual” are fine. No need to wear a suit. T-shirt and jeans might be a little too casual. Closed-toe shoes; no flip-flops.
- Modest jewelry is fine, but keep it minimal. No huge hoop earrings. No nose rings or eyebrow rings. **DO NOT WEAR A WATCH** if you normally wear one.

What should I bring?

- Leave your phone in the car! If you come with questions (YOU SHOULD – see page 8!), write them on paper or in a small notebook. Do not keep them on your phone; your interviewer will think you are texting or Tweeting.
- You can bring a resume if you want to leave one with your interviewer.



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE INTERVIEW?

- The interview is a two-way street – they get more information about you and you get more information about the school, usually from someone who attended.
- Your goal should be to give the interviewer more information about yourself and your interests than the school can get from your application.
- Think IN ADVANCE of 2-3 special things you want your interviewer to know about you at the end of your interview.

WHAT WILL MY INTERVIEWER ASK ME?

- Questions about your academic interests
- Questions about your extra-curricular activities (*and how these might relate to activities you would want to do in college*)
- Questions about your plans for future study
- Questions about what you are looking for in your college experience
- They may ask you where else you are applying to college
- Finally, they will ask you if you have any questions (we'll come back to that in a moment)

HOW CAN I BE MEMORABLE?

- When asked about your academic interests, don't just give class titles (*"I liked biology."*) Talk about WHY you were interested in the subjects you liked most (*"I really loved learning about the genetic code, because I have a twin sister and we look nothing alike!"*)
- When asked about your extra-curricular activities, don't just list your resume. Pick one or two and talk about your depth of involvement, and your leadership. (*"I was involved with the Red Cross club for three years, and we tripled the number of students who donated blood during the year I was Treasurer."*) GIVE METRICS. Talk about why you were passionate about your activities.
- When asked about what you are looking for in your college experience, let the interviewer know that you have researched the school. Give details that help them understand your desire to attend! (*"I really want to intern for an international agency, and I know that Lehigh has a strong internship connection with the U.N."*)

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK MY INTERVIEWER?

- Remember that your interviewer is not just an alumnus, but one who had **such a good experience** and **such good memories** that they volunteer their time for the institution.
- **Click deep.** Show that you have done your research. DO NOT ask simple questions whose answers can be found on the college's website. (*"Do you know anything about SMU's International Business concentration? I see that students have the opportunity to add a second major in International Studies and study abroad within the BBA program."* **[This information is 5 clicks past SMU's home page.]**)
- **Get personal.** Ask your interviewer about HIS/HER experience. S/HE would LOVE to talk about it! Ask how being a student and an alumnus of the college has impacted his/her personal or professional life.
- **Ask to stay in touch.** Tell your interviewer that you'd like to follow up with them after you learn your admissions decision. You want this person to be your strong advocate!



**Questions?
Feel Free to Get in Touch!**

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