



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS

Preparation:

Research your employer thoroughly, refine your resume, select appropriate attire, create a list of questions to ask the employer, and get a good night's sleep. Also be sure to familiarize yourself with the interview's location.

Practice:

Set up a mock interview with Career Collaborative, a friend, family member, or colleague. Rehearsing your responses is a great way to boost your confidence and craft how you communicate your experiences. Remember to research the company and tailor your responses to show how your talents and personality match the position. Practice avoiding words such as "uh," "um," "you know," and "like," and bad body language habits of twirling hair, tapping a foot, or drumming fingers.

Presentation:

When answering questions, remember the "3 P's":

- **Ponder:** take a moment to reflect on why the employer has asked a question. This will help you frame your response and speak to the skill set, value, or ability being measured.
- **Prove:** if you say that you have developed excellent organizational skills, give specific examples of situations where you demonstrated a high level of organization.
- **Project:** always be genuine and confident in responding to questions, asking questions, and meeting new people during the interview.

Post-Interview:

Collect your interviewers' business cards so you can follow up with a thank-you card or email. After you leave the premises, take notes on everything you can remember and use the experience to further develop your interview techniques. Check back two weeks afterward unless you hear back sooner or are given different instructions.

Common Interview Questions to Expect

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- Why are you interested in this position?
- What do you know about this organization?
- What do you consider your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- How do you anticipate using the skills/knowledge you've acquired in your internship(s) and classes?
- Talk about a time when you were not able to build a successful relationship with a difficult person.
- Describe how your position in a group project contributed to your team's goals.
- Are you a "big-picture" person or a "detail-oriented" person? Give an example.
- Describe a time when you had to take a risk at work. What was the outcome?



- What would former coworkers/professors/supervisors say about you if we called them?
- Describe the work environment that you thrive in.
- How did you get along with your last supervisor?
- What's your preferred style of management?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Why are you excited about this job?
- Describe a time when you made a mistake at work. How did you fix it?

Interview Questions Specific to Criminal Justice

- Why did you choose a career in Criminal Justice/Justice Administration?
- Give a specific example of a time when you used good judgment and logic in solving a problem.
- Provide an example of a time when you had to conform to a policy you didn't agree with.
- Talk about a time you made a split second decision. What was the situation and what was the result?
- Talk about a situation where you had to deal with a person who was upset. How did you handle it?
- How have you prepared yourself for this position?
- What actions would you take as a police officer to ensure good relations with citizens in your patrol area?
- Under what circumstances is deadly force justified?
- Tell us about your qualifications for working in the criminal justice field.
- How well do you follow instructions?
- What would you do if you were issued a direct order that would place others or yourself in danger?
- When is it okay to disobey an order?
- Talk about your ability to work on a team. Which role on the team do you feel most comfortable in?
- Are you currently participating in any type of physical fitness program?
- You and your partner are driving a dangerous prisoner to jail. While in-route, you observe an accident involving three vehicles with significant damage. What would you do?
- What would you do if you were assigned a partner whom you did not like?
- Talk about a time when you successfully handled a stressful situation. What steps did you take?
- How do you resolve disagreements with others?



Asking Questions

So many people are concerned with making a good impression during a job interview that they forget it's a two-way street. You're there not only to market yourself, but to find out if the job and company are right for you. At the end of your interview, the interviewer will expect you to ask questions. Here are some options:

- What's an average day like?
- How would you describe the culture here?
- What qualities are you looking for in the person who fills this position?
- What is the next step in the hiring process? Or, when might you make a hiring decision?
- What tools/applications/languages do you use?
- What are the biggest opportunities and challenges facing the company or department right now?
- What typical projects or tasks do employees/student interns work on?
- What makes an employee/student intern successful? What traits are best suited for your company?
- How do the various members of the team work together? Who is the team leader?
- How would successful performance in this position be measured?
- Is there much turn-over in your company?
- What's your preferred management style?
- Are there opportunities for professional development?