



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR FILMMAKING MAJORS

When interviewing for a position in filmmaking, remember that your interviewer wants to know that you are competent and reliable. Reference specific editing programs and equipment that you know how to use. Think back to specific projects and sets that you worked on and be ready to tell stories about what your role was and what you learned. If you have not already, you may want to prepare a digital copy of your reel to bring to your interview.

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 does your previous experience relate to the job we have open?
- How did you get along with your last supervisor?

Interview Questions Specific to Filmmaking

- What sorts of things have you done to become better qualified for a career in filmmaking?
- Is it harder for you to get started or to keep going? How do you overcome that?
- What characterizes a good filmmaker in your point of view?
- What kind of film projects are you most interested in?
- What programs/software are you familiar with? Which programs would you like to learn?
- What do you consider some of the current trends in the film industry?
- What do you consider your most successful film project to date? Why?
- What films have been the most inspiring or influential to you and why?
- How well do you take criticism?
- What is your creative process?
- What failures have you been able to learn from? How did they change you and your process?
- Talk about a time when you worked for a client. What was the process like?
- What do audiences want? Is it the filmmaker's responsibility to worry about that?

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?
- Do entry-level employees get to travel for work? Is that a perk or do they cover their own expenses?

Top Traits Employers Seek

Every employer is looking for specific characteristics and the winning candidate will have the right combination of them. These are the top traits that employers want. In your interview, find a way to talk about the ones you have.

- Honesty/Integrity
- Dedication/Tenacity
- Loyalty
- Professionalism
- Self-Motivation
- Adaptability/Flexibility
- Reliability/Responsibility
- Positive Attitude
- Self-Confidence
- Willingness to Learn