



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR PSYCHOLOGY 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?
- What motivates you?
- Talk about a time when you made a mistake at work. How did you fix it?

Interview Questions Specific to Psychology

- What brought you to this field?
- Talk about a time when you needed to enforce a policy even if you didn't agree with it.
- How do you keep yourself balanced? How do you reduce stress?
- How have your previous experiences and education prepared you for work with clients?
- What is your knowledge and understanding of the recovery/wellness model?
- Talk about your experience at your most recent job or internship.
- What previous experience do you have in the field?
- What involvement do you have in community service and volunteer work?
- What do you see as the role of an MFT/Counselor/Mental Health Practitioner in today's society?
- What theoretical orientation do you identify most with and why?
- Talk about your experience working with diverse or multicultural populations.
- Talk about a time when you used your cultural sensitivity to assist another person.
- How would you handle an aggressive/angry client?
- How would you handle a suicidal/homicidal client?
- What steps would you take if you suspected child abuse/neglect with a client?
- Is there a specific population that appeals to you/intimidates you? Why?
- Talk about a time when you were on a team. What was your role and how did you interact 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?