Graduate School Interview Questions

What questions can you expect?

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- If you're not accepted into graduate school, what are your plans?
- Why did you choose this career?
- What do you know about our program?
- Why did you choose to apply to our program?
- What other schools are you considering?
- In what ways have your previous experience prepared you for graduate study in our program?
- Any questions?
- What do you believe your greatest challenge will be if you are accepted into this program?
- In college, what courses did you enjoy the most? The least? Why?
- Describe any research project you've worked on.
- How would your professors describe you?
- How will you be able to make a contribution to this field?
- What are your hobbies?
- Explain a situation in which you had a conflict and how you resolved it. What would you do differently? Why?
- Describe your greatest accomplishment.
- Tell me about your experience in this field. What was challenging? What was your contribution?
- What are your career goals? How will this program help you achieve your goals?
• How do you intend to finance your education?
• What skills do you bring to the program? How will you help your mentor in his or her research?
• Are you motivated? Explain and provide examples.
• Why should we take you and not someone else?
• What do you plan to specialize in?
• What do you do in your spare time?
• What can be determined about an applicant at an interview?

More Sample Questions Asked During Academic Programs & Graduate/Professional Programs Interviews

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What are your plans if you’re not accepted? Plan B?
- What do you believe your greatest challenge will be if you are accepted into this program?
- In what ways do you think your previous experience and coursework have prepared you for succeeding in our program?
- What courses have you enjoyed the most? The least?
- How would your professors describe you?
- Why have you chosen to apply to our program?
- Why did you decide to become a (i.e. physical therapist)?
- What do you know about our school/program?
- What is your philosophy regarding this profession?
- Explain a situation in which you had a conflict and how you resolved it. What did you learn?
- Describe a group project you’ve worked on and what role you took.
- What are your career goals? How will this program help you achieve these goals?
- How will you be able to make a contribution to this field?
- Describe one or two accomplishments.
- How will you manage your time if you are accepted into the program?
- What can you offer this program that other applicants cannot?
- How do you motivate yourself?
- What questions do you have for us?
- What concerns you about the (i.e. counseling) profession?
Tell me about your last experience (internship, job, volunteer, clinical, practicum, etc.). What was a challenge? What was a contribution you made?

**Additionally:**
- Think about situational questions. For example, “What would you do if a client or patient or customer…?”
- Know about current issues, trends, practices, processes, technology, procedures, etc.

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**Sample Questions to Ask the Interviewer**

These are examples of the types of questions you might ask in an interview. You will want to develop your own questions. Each program is different, and what is appropriate at one school may be inappropriate at another.

What do you consider the greatest strength of this program? Of this profession?

What makes a student successful in your program?

What future changes do you see in this profession?

This is what I know about your program….can you tell me more?

Where do graduates of your program typically work?