

Gonzaga Career & Professional Development

Standard Interview Questions

It is not enough to have solid answers for the questions below. Be prepared for the full spectrum of questions that may be presented.

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. I would like to begin by having you outline for me any practical experience you have had on previous jobs or others that is related to the profession of _____.
3. How would you describe your ideal job?
4. Why did you choose this career?
5. When did you decide on this career?
6. What goals do you have in your career?
7. How do you plan to achieve these goals?
8. How do you evaluate success?
9. Describe a time when you organized your work effectively in order to meet a deadline.
10. What do you think it takes to be successful in this career?
11. What accomplishments have given you the most satisfaction in your life?
12. If you had to live your life over again, what would you change?
13. Would you rather work with information or with people?
14. Are you a team player?
15. What motivates you?
16. Give an example of when you showed initiative.
17. There are many qualified individuals applying for a limited number of positions. What can you tell me that would make you stand out among the rest?
18. Are you a goal-oriented person?
19. Tell me about some of your recent goals and what you did to achieve them.
20. What are your short-term goals?
21. What is your long-range objective?
22. What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
23. Where do you want to be ten years from now?
24. Do you handle conflict well?
25. Have you ever had a conflict with a boss or professor? How did you resolve it?

26. Tell me about a time you had to work in a group to solve a problem or complete a project.
27. What major problem have you had to deal with recently?
28. Do you handle pressure well?
29. What is your greatest strength?
30. What is your greatest weakness?
31. Tell me about a time when you were able to help improve a work procedure by making good suggestions to your supervisor or co-worker.
32. If I were to ask one of your professors to describe you, what would he or she say?
33. Why did you choose to attend your college?
34. What changes would you make at your college?
35. How has your education prepared you for your career?
36. What were your favorite classes? Why?
37. Do you enjoy doing independent research?
38. Who were your favorite professors? Why?
39. Explain any weaknesses on your resume or GPA.
40. Do you have any plans for further education?
41. How much training do you think you'll need to become a productive employee?
42. What qualities do you feel a successful manager should have?
43. Why do you want to work in the _____ industry?
44. What do you know about our company?
45. Why are you interested in our company?
46. Do you have any location preferences?
47. How familiar are you with the community that we're located in?
48. Will you relocate? In the future?
49. Are you willing to travel? How much?
50. Is money important to you?
51. How much money do you need to make to be happy?
52. What kind of salary are you looking for?

Don't just read these questions – practice and rehearse the answers. Don't let the company interview be the first time you have actually formulated an answer in spoken words. It is not enough to think about them in your head – practice! Sit down with a friend, a significant other, or your roommate (an especially effective critic, given the amount of preparation to date) and go through all of the questions. Make the most of every single interview opportunity by being fully prepared.