



# Interview Tips

<b>First Impressions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appearance and attire is professional looking with neutral colors</li><li>• Greet interviewer with a smile and a firm handshake</li><li>• Conversation is enthusiastic and engaging</li></ul>
<b>Interview Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledgeable about the organization and position</li><li>• Display poise and confidence through verbal and non-verbal actions</li><li>• Relate specific skills to the position</li><li>• Content is related to the position and not of personal nature.</li></ul>
<b>Interview Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frequent eye contact with your interviewer without staring.</li><li>• Language/grammar is professional. (Avoid using “um”, “like” or slang)</li><li>• Speak at a consistent, relaxed pace</li></ul>
<b>Closing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convey interest in the position again</li><li>• Ask prepared questions for the interviewer</li><li>• Thank the interviewer and clarify the follow-up process.</li></ul>

*Do your research on  
the company before  
your interview*

## **1. Show your Passion and Enthusiasm!**

- Demonstrate that you have done your research about the company and let the employer know what impressed you
- Perhaps their mission statement aligns with your values or they are working on a project you would like to be a part of
- Use positive language like “I am very *excited* to be here to discuss how I can contribute to your organization!”

## **2. Prepare and Use your Wild Cards**

- Wild cards are unique qualities, experiences and skills that can set you apart from other candidates and make you memorable
- Have at least 5 “wild cards” ready to go which can include research, projects, internships, leadership roles etc.

## **3. Show, Don’t Tell**

- Use examples and short stories to back up your interview answers (Use the BAR method)
- People remember short stories and examples better than names so make them intriguing!

## **4. Connect your Response to the Job Position**

- Your goal is to show how your skills meet the needs of the employers
- You have a limited amount of time to prove you are the perfect candidate so only give information that connects to the job that you are interviewing for

## **5. Prepare Behavioral Based Stories**

- Employers will ask behavioral based questions to get a better understanding of your personality and what you have accomplished.
- Instead of coming up with the story on the spot, have at least five stories ready to go that could be used if the interviewer wants to know about the following:
  - o problem-solving, working with a team, leadership, a project/assignment



# Sample Questions

## General Interview Questions

*Prepare your answers ahead of time!*

- Tell me about yourself (Aim for a 2-3 minute answer)
  1. Brief reference to personal history
  2. Education Background
  3. Related Work, Internship, Project Experience
  4. Personal Qualities and Interests
- Why did you choose UIC and your area of study?
- Why are you the best candidate for the position?
- How would you define leadership?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strength? Weakness?
- Why are you interested in our organization?
- How would professors or previous supervisors describe you?

## Behavioral Based Interview Questions

**Question:** Describe a project that you accomplished

*Use the BAR method when answering behavioral based*

**Background:** Describe when and where the situation took place  
*"I worked as a software developer intern at Savvo for 8 months."*

**Action:** Describe what action you took and skills you used  
*"I developed a mobile iOS app utilizing C#, tested code and deployed app by deliverable deadline"*

**Result:** Provide the outcome of your actions to show it was successful or a learning experience  
*"The app was received favorably by my supervisor and optimized user experience."*

- Tell me about a time you had to make a risky decision
- Tell me about a time you worked with someone that did things differently than you. How did you get the job done?
- How have you dealt with disappointment and turned it into a learning experience?

## Examples of Technical Questions

- What languages have you programmed in?
- Describe the most challenging written technical report you've had to complete.
- Tell me about your greatest success in using logic to solve an engineering problem.
- Give an example of when you applied your ability to use analytical techniques to define problems or design solutions.
- What are you doing to stay current with the latest technology?

*Prepare up to three questions for the interviewer*

## Examples of Questions to ask the Interviewer

- How would you describe the office dynamics?
- Are there opportunities for professional development?
- What does a typical day look like?
- What are some future strategic goals for the company?

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