

How to Ace Your College Interview



A college interview is a great opportunity for you to share more about yourself — beyond test scores and academics — and also let an admission counselor know why their college or university is a good match for you. Here are some tips to help you prepare.

RESEARCH THE INSTITUTION. Why do you want to go to this school over others? Know which programs you're interested in and how your goals tie to the school's mission. You can learn a lot on the school's social media accounts, which provide solid and up-to-date news that may spark conversation.

PREPARE FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER AND SKILLS. What are your strengths and weaknesses? Can you describe a leadership position you've had at school? What's something you struggled with, and how did you overcome it? What do you do when you're not in class?

ALWAYS BE YOURSELF. Interviewers can often tell when candidates are not being genuine or have memorized answers, so don't try to be something you're not!

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. Ask a friend or family member to conduct mock interviews with you, asking questions a counselor may ask. This will help you refine your answers and increase your comfort level.

UPDATE YOUR RÉSUMÉ. Plan to bring an updated copy of your résumé with you for the interview.

PREPARE YOUR LIST OF QUESTIONS. Asking thoughtful, composed questions specific to the institution shows you care, and you've put some thought into the process.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY. A good rule of thumb is business casual. Some schools will provide a dress code, so check the website or call if you have questions.

TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE. Don't text, take a call or check your social media during the interview.

FOLLOW UP. A thoughtful, hand-written thank you note or email can go a long way. Make sure to ask for the interviewer's business card if they don't offer it, so that you can follow up.



For more tips on the college admission process, visit us at:

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