



CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Typical Interview Questions Covered in Mock Interview Sessions

Tell me about yourself.

This question is not meant to be a 10 minute story about all your favorite pets and vacations. Ideally, your response here will personalize you and connect you to the interviewer, without over sharing. Take 1-2 minutes to share what your education level is, where you are from, a couple of hobbies, and a few accomplishments.

Example: Well, it's nice to be with you today. My name is Sam and I am a Senior at Auburn University at Montgomery studying Global Business. I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and had the privilege of watching my mom build her own small business from the ground up. I enjoy music festivals, relaxing with friends, and driving to the beach whenever I can. In my time at AUM, I have gotten to learn from many distinguished faculty and I was voted the student of the month!

You try it: _____

_____.

How did you hear about this position?

This question is mainly for the employer to know the channels by which news is traveling and how you may be connected to the organization. Are you related to an associate? Do you have friends who are employed there? Did a well-known retiree recommend you? Or are you simply on the job search and found them via an online platform? There is no wrong answer, as long as you are professional.

Example: My Uncle completed his internship in the sales department and always talked highly of his time here. DON'T say "well at a party one night you popped up on my Insta feed and I figured might as well try it because I'm broke".

You try it: _____

_____.

Why do you want to work with our organization?

This question will give the employer an idea of why you connect to the business or its mission. It's okay to be 100% factual here, or have a bit of an emotional tie.

Example: I have always loved the Habitat for Humanity's mission, and have seen first hand the ways it can change people's lives. When my friend's grandmother lost her home to a flood, I remember how relieved the family was when Habitat came to the rescue. I want to be a small part of change like that.

You try it: _____
_____.

What is your greatest strength?

This question can feel tricky. You don't want to brag too much, but you also don't want to sell yourself short. The employer GENUINLY wants to know what your main personality strength is, as that will not often come through in a resume, cover letter, or application. Think of 1-3 things you excel in on a regular basis, and answer honestly. ALWAYS try to tie it back to job performance in a natural way.

Example: I would say that my greatest strength is my desire to be an agent of change. In almost any task I find myself completing, I can put my all into it if I remember that it will make someone's life just little better. When it comes to marketing, I remember that by getting information to people in pleasant ways, I'm empowering them to be aware of things they may never have known otherwise.

You try it: _____

What is your greatest weakness?

Again, this can feel tricky. DO NOT make yourself sound like a terrible employee, but also do not make it sound as if you are perfect. The employer is looking for a bit of self-awareness and humility. A good trait in an entry level employee is that they know they have a lot to learn. Think of a few things you struggle with, and then think of ways to reframe them with improvements you are working towards.

Example: My weakness is that I want to be involved in every project that comes across my radar, and I often overwhelm myself. Through the time I've spent working as a SWOT member of AUM's campus, I've had to learn the importance of delegating to fellow team members so that all the work gets done without draining everyone.

You try it: _____

What do you know about our company/organization and/or products/services?

This question is exactly what it seems: have you done your homework and do you know what you're getting in to? This question doesn't have to be a complete regurgitation of the company's strategic plan or their entire Wikipedia page. What the employer will be looking for is a base level knowledge that shows you did more than find an application on Indeed and fill it in. The best way to prepare for this question is to do your homework. Look through the company's website and social media pages. Find their BBB ratings and any articles written about them. You don't have to memorize it all, but try to have a good working knowledge of how the company began, what it does, and some things it stands for.

Example: I know that AUM began as an extended campus for Auburn University but has since separated itself into a league of its own. AUM boasts participation in almost a dozen sports and have nearly 100 campus organizations. I know that the staff at AUM is to always be focused on serving students, and that the student body here is made up of a diverse pool, which makes me most excited to join this institution.

You try it: _____

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What kind of working environment/circumstances do you work best in?

Again, there is no wrong answer here. It's okay to be a team person and it's okay to work better on your own. You can answer and give a short explanation either way, but avoid completely insulting the other option.

Example: I generally work very well on my own because I find that I can focus and see a task through better this way. However, I do enjoy involving others in the process from time to time to gain a better perspective. DON'T say you absolutely hate working with others because they constantly distract you and you do not have time for workplace interaction.

You try it: _____

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Where do you see yourself in 5 (or 10) years?

This question is typically to gauge your drives and passions. However, it may be used to determine how long term of an employee you will be. You want to communicate what your goals are honestly without making it seem that this company is just a meaningless stop along the way.

Example: I see myself in 5 years working in a marketing firm where I have a strong relationship with my teammates and am fulfilled each day when I leave the office and head home to my golden retrievers and my comfortable home that I've purchased. I see myself having completed or neared completion of my MBA and pursuing promotions to be a team leader.

You try it: _____

_____.

Why should would you hire you?

This question is similar to the question pertaining to your strengths, but can sometimes be used to reflect your own views of professionalism. It's always good for an employer to know what you think a good employee is, because ideally that's who you will aspire to be.

Example: I would hire me for this position because, even though I am young, I have learned quite a bit from my internship experience and am always excited to learn more. I know that my ideas have value, but that I can always gain something from listening to others. I think my approach to work being a collaborative effort makes me the perfect player for this team.

You try it: _____

_____.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date?

This question is of course to gain an understanding of where you have succeeded, but also point to what you value. This accomplishment can be educational, professional, or personal- as long as it is explained to appropriately highlight what makes you an asset.

Example: My greatest accomplishment to date is being the first person in my family to attend and soon graduate college. My family has shown me how to work hard, but this goal was something I often had to figure out on my own. I am proud of myself for applying the lessons I've learned and working hard inside and outside of the classroom to get to this point.

You try it: _____

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What are your salary expectations?

This question is pretty straight forward. At what price do you value your work? It is always good to know the current salary projections for the position you are applying for and base your response off of this information (O*NET is the best resource for this). If the starting salary for an entry level position in your field is \$40-60,000, don't request a salary of \$95,000. By the same logic, don't sell yourself short and ask for \$25,000. The range or average number is usually a safe answer.

Example: Most entry level marketing positions are between \$60,000 and \$75,000 right now. Because I have completed an internship and will have an accredited degree, as well as due to the increase in housing and relocation costs, I would prefer to start around \$70,000, but am open to negotiation.

You try it: _____

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Do you have any questions?

YES! The answer here is ALWAYS yes. Employers almost always expect a dialogue here to show how interested you are, and how involved you are in the interview at this point. When looking over the job description and company info, try to pull out 2-3 topics you'd like to discuss that don't include salary or benefits. Additionally, keeping in mind 1-2 general industry topics will help if your company specific questions are answered during the interview.

Example: Well, I was curious about the use of mental health days at your company, but you gave a wonderful explanation on that earlier. I am wondering what program your ad team typically uses though?

You try it: _____

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Behavioral Questions:

Behavioral interview questions are questions that ask how you have previously acted in differing situations. They communicate to the employer how you handle stress, what your skill-level is in many areas, and how you function in a professional environment. Essentially, this will help the employer better understand your character and how you will fit in to the workforce.

Give an example of how you handled a challenge or conflict in the workplace.

Give an example of a time you performed well under pressure.

Give an example of when you showcased the ability to lead others.

When answering behavioral questions, you will need to tell a story. As long as it is relevant to the question and is presented in a professional manner, any story that you feel answers the question is acceptable. If you have not had the particular scenario happen within an employment setting, remember that leading clubs or being involved in on campus organization is often very similar to workplace experience. When telling your story, be clear, concise, and to the point. Your answer should still be around 3 minutes long. Don't ramble or tell unnecessary details like back story.

Example: I was once tasked with picking up the planning for our spring philanthropy when our club president became ill and had to quarantine. Although I was nervous at first, I knew that the event couldn't be neglected. I leaned on my fellow board members and delegated tasks that I didn't have the skills for, while focusing on the large to do list items that were most pressing. In the end, I learned that a stressful leadership situation can become much less of a burden when you share tasks with others.

You try it: _____

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For assistance in preparing for your upcoming interview, schedule a Mock Interview with the Career Development Center by emailing byeend@aum.edu



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