



Below is a list of commonly asked interview questions. Feel free to ask as many of these as you like or none at all. This is just a sample of questions that students may be prepared to answer in an interview setting. Please supplement with questions specific to your field and/or experiences.

General questions:

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are you most proud of?
- What three words would you choose to best describe yourself?
- What do you do in your free time?

Knowledge about the function, company, or industry; Ability to link experience and personal traits to the job:

- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Why are you interested in this position? In our organization?
- Why do you want to work in this field?
- Where do you see the greatest opportunities in our industry?

Leadership skills:

- To what activity outside of work (school) have you made the greatest contribution? Describe your experiences.
- Give me an example of your leadership skills. Give me a second example.
- Are you a leader or a manager?
- Tell me about when you have championed an idea/a cause/a project, and describe what you accomplished and how.

Accomplishments:

- What is your greatest accomplishment?
- Give me an example of a tough decision you faced. How did you tackle it?
- Probing a project the interviewee has worked on: What was the specific improvement



you achieved?

Team skills/interpersonal skills:

- Tell me about a team you worked on.
- Do you prefer to work individually or on a team?
- Provide an example of when you didn't get along with a co-worker and how you resolved it.

Work environment/corporate culture:

- Describe your ideal boss/colleague.
- In what type of environment do you flourish?

Analytical/problem-solving skills:

- Give me an example of your problem-solving abilities/ analytical skills.
- Tell me about a tough decision you've made, and how you went about making it.
- How would you determine the number of basketball courts in the U.S.?
- Describe as many uses for ping-pong balls as you can.

Career goals:

- Why did you choose Johns Hopkins?
- Why did you choose this major?
 - If you had to make this decision again (i.e., go to Hopkins, choose this major...), would you make the same choice? Why or why not?
- Where do you want to be in five years?
- What's the difference between a job and a career?

Challenging Questions:

- For someone with little work experience: How does your previous experience prepare you for this position?
- I've interviewed over 10,000 people in 20+ years. What's so special about you?



- I'm going to start talking and you interrupt me when you have something to say. By the time you leave I want you to convince me you're special.
- I'm interested in brainpower/horsepower. Convince me you have it.
- Which would you rather have, more creativity or more intelligence, and why?
- Based on your résumé, why are you here, in this interview?

Wrap up:

- Is there anything you'd like to add that we didn't cover in the interview?

