

Practice Grad School Interview Questions



Prepare for your practice interview by thinking through answers to the questions below in relation to a specific graduate/professional school program of interest to you. If you haven't written a benefit statement to help you answer the first question, see the CEL's online interview guide.

Tell me about yourself.

What interests you about this program and how does it fit into your short- and long-term career goals? How will your goals be furthered by obtaining a _____ degree?

Why do you want to attend this graduate/professional school?

What are your research interests and how do they mesh with this program? Which faculty are doing work of particular interest to you and why?

What strengths will you bring to this program and to the career field? What do you consider one of your weaknesses?

Describe a situation where you had to present complex information to a customer or a peer. How did you ensure that the other person understood what you were trying to communicate?

Tell me about an instance when you played a leadership role on a team project, how you managed that project and the other team members. Describe how you dealt with team members who weren't contributing to the team's efforts.

Tell me about a time when you were faced with multiple, conflicting priorities. How did you determine what was important? How did you go about organizing your work?

Describe an ethical dilemma you've faced and how you resolved it.

Tell me about one of your research papers/projects, how you identified your question, and how you set up and carried out your research.

Describe an instance when you encountered an obstacle you could not overcome and how you dealt with that situation.

What are the current issues/trends in the _____ field?

If you're not accepted into a graduate program at this point, what will you do to better prepare for a later round of applications?

What questions do you have for me about our program/institution?