

THE INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWING IN GENERAL

An interview is a conversation with a purpose. You should look at the college interview as not only an opportunity to impress your interviewer but as a chance to get your questions answered by someone who represents a college in which you are interested. The interviews should be informative as well as evaluative. Keep in mind that interviewers interview students because they enjoy meeting young people who are interested in their institution. Most interviews should be fun.

THE ACTUAL INTERVIEW

1. Be on time. Know the location of the interview and how to get there. A dry run may be necessary. Lateness shows a lack of regard for the interviewer's time. Call if you are unavoidably delayed. Be prepared to stay as long as necessary to complete the interview.
2. Smile as you enter for the interview. State your name clearly. Give a firm connecting handshake—as a sincere, friendly person you are connecting with another important person. Maintain good posture. Wait until the interviewer asks you to sit down.
3. Let the interviewer take the initiative.
4. Use the interviewer's name, addressing the person as Mr., Miss., Ms., Dr. Never use the interviewer's first name until asked to do so. Look the interviewer in the eye—eye contact is another way of connecting.
5. Nervousness is understandable. If you become aware that it is showing (shaking hands, perspiring, etc.) don't overreact. Breathe deeply and concentrate on the conversation.
6. **BE YOURSELF!** Be truthful, honest and sincere. Neither exaggerate nor discount your qualifications (they will learn the truth in the application anyway...)
7. Speak with confidence and enthusiasm. Use proper English. Listen to the interviewer's questions carefully and do not interrupt. Give thoughtful and complete answers. When in doubt about the question, ask for clarification.
8. Be sure to have questions ready to ask at the end of the interview. Feel free to take notes on the answers.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

1. When you have left the interviewer's office, write some quick notes to yourself about how you thought the interview went and what impressions you believe you left with the interviewer. You may need to fill in any "gaps" in other parts of your application later. Pay attention to "gut feelings."
2. Send a thank you note to the person who conducted your interview.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK

Academic Standards and Policies

What departments have the largest percentages of students enrolled?
What percentage of graduates go directly to graduate school? Professional schools?
What percentage of faculty holds a Ph.D.?
How large is the library? Does it have open stacks?
What is the SAT range of the middle 50% of the applicant pool?
Do graduate students teach any sections of freshman courses? Of upperclassmen's courses?
Is there a core curriculum?
What computer facilities are available? Do all students have access? Are the dorms wired?

Student Body

What is the geographical distribution of the student body? How many from in state? Commuter students?
How many international students attend the college?
What is the size of the freshman class?
What percentage of freshman return for the sophomore year? What percentages of those that don't return are due to academic concerns?
What percentage of students remain on campus during the weekends?

Campus Regulations

May freshman have cars on campus? Upperclassmen?
Are parking facilities available? Is there a fee?
Are there curfews in the dormitories?

Housing

What percentage of students live in dorms?
Are there freshman ghettos? Is there preferred housing for upperclassmen?
Are the dorms co-ed? Are the bathrooms?
Are laundry facilities available in the dorms?
Are there fraternities and sororities on campus? What percentage of students are involved?
Is housing guaranteed for all four years?

Extracurricular Activities/Social Life

What is the form of student government? Is it active?
You will want to ask about activities specific to your interests.

Non-instructional Services

Are academic advisors assigned to freshmen? How?
Is there an orientation program? When?
Does the college have 24-hour infirmary/health center service?

SELF EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

1. How have I liked high school? If I could change one thing about my high school, what would it be and why? Why did I choose SSA?
2. What are my academic strengths?
3. What are my personal strengths?
4. How do I feel about competition?
5. How do I spend my free time?
6. What do I like to read and why?
7. What sorts of activities am I engaged in when I lose track of time?
8. With what kinds of people do I like to spend time?
9. What do I think of people who are different from me?
10. How do I feel when I am with people who do not share my views?
11. What do I expect to get out of college, besides a degree?
12. How will I have changed in five years? Ten years?
13. If I could go anywhere and do anything I wanted for a year, where would I go and what would I do?
14. What would I like others to know about me?
15. What makes me happy?