



Sample Job Interview Questions

Introductory

Why did you choose to attend UTHSCSA?

What are some of the greatest personal challenges you have faced during your lifetime?

What motivates you?

Skills and Personal Qualities

What skills or personal qualities do you possess that will help make you successful in today's job market?

Tell me about yourself (Ask what type of information the employer is looking for-skills, personal background)

What special skills do you possess that would make you stand out from other candidates?

Describe a frustrating or challenging experience you've encountered and tell me how you dealt with it.

Discuss some of your past leadership/teamwork roles and your accomplishments.

Why should our organization hire you?

Who was the most difficult person you have ever dealt with, and how did you handle the situation?

Can you think of a specific situation that reflects your ability to show initiative? Describe it.

What is your greatest weakness, what have you done to try to overcome it?

Career Goals and Objectives

What are your long-term career goals and how are you preparing to achieve them?

Why are you interested in this industry/occupation?

Why do you want to work for our organization?

What do you see yourself doing in three to five years?

Extracurricular Activities and College/Graduate School Experiences

Please describe your most rewarding college or graduate school experience.

If you could relive your college/grad school experience, what would you do differently?

Academic Programs

What factors influenced your choice in choosing a scientific field of study?

What were your favorite and least favorite courses or research areas?

Are you satisfied with your academic accomplishments?

What courses or research topics gave you the most difficulty?

How has your graduate research prepared you for this position?

Work/Internship Experiences

What is your most relevant experience as it relates to this position?

What did you enjoy most about your most recent job (or research) experience?

What do you see as your major strengths as they apply to this position?



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Accomplishments/Achievements

What else would you like us to know about you?
Of what accomplishments are you most proud?

Knowledge of Organization/Industry

What attracts you to this industry?
What do you know about our organization?
Why do you think you'd like working for our organization?

Salary and Benefits

When comparing one company offer to another, what factors will be important to you besides starting salary?
What salary range are you expecting? (If possible, you may want to state that you are more interested in the content of the position at this point and would be happy to discuss salary when an offer is presented).

Unusual Questions

These questions seldom have right or wrong answers. Even though the questions may not seem to be job-related, employers may try to determine your confidence and creativity through your answers.

Think about your favorite product. Now think up five better names for it.
Tell me a story.
How would the world be different if you had never been born?

Legal/Illegal Questions

Illegal questions are often asked unintentionally. If you feel you are being asked an illegal question during an interview you can legitimately, but politely, refuse to answer. You might say, "I'm not sure of the relevance of that question, can you tell me how it specifically relates to this job?" The Director of the Office of Career Development is always available to discuss how you might reply to such questions, or help you with follow-up if you feel you have been asked illegal interview questions.