

The College Interview

Most college interviews will take place at the time of your college visit. Some schools require interviews while others make it optional. Be sure to know the policy of the schools to which you are applying.

BEFORE

Preparation is essential: familiarize yourself with the college, be prepared to explain why you are interested in the school. Do your research!

- Prepare good questions.
- Obtain a unofficial copy of your transcript and a copy of your resume.
- Be prepared to discuss who you are: strengths/weaknesses, likes/dislikes, major accomplishments, turning points in your life, influential people.
- Dress appropriately and comfortably. First impressions do count.
- Arrive on time. Be prepared to complete a questionnaire before the interview.
- Greet the representative with a firm handshake and smile. Introduce yourself and your parent(s)/guardian.

DURING

Try to remember that an interview is actually a conversation – you are interviewing the college counselor about the school as much as they are interviewing you.

- Speak directly to the representative and make eye contact.
- Elaborate during the interview. Do not use one word answers.
- Relax and be yourself. Most admission representatives know that students are more than what appears on paper. Give the representative the whole picture; talk about your family, goals and outside activities.
- Remember to breathe! A good deep breath will help you relax and think clearly.

Questions you might be asked in an interview:

- Why are you interested in our college?
- Who/what has influenced you?
- What are your educational/career/academic/extracurricular/personal goals?
- What are you looking for in a college?
- Why are you interested in the field of study in which you wish to major?
- What kinds of jobs have you held? Which were most interesting to you?
- What would you do next year if you didn't attend college?
- What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment to date?
- What do you expect a college education to do for you?
- As a student, what would you change about your study habits?
- How do you think you would manage your time while attending class?
- How do you explain your high/low grades in _____?
- What can you contribute to our college?
- What are your favorite subjects of study? Least favorite? Why?
- Why should we accept you?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What do you want me to remember about you?