

## COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

You can't anticipate the questions you'll receive in an interview. However, common themes include applications of analytical, problem solving, and decision-making skills; leadership development; creativity; teamwork; and personal development. These should be answered using specific examples. Interviews often include a mix of different types of questions.

### RESUME-BASED/QUALIFICATIONS

- Why are you interested in our organization? Industry?
- What work experience has been the most valuable to you and why?
- Why did you choose to attend Notre Dame and how did you select your major(s)?
- How do you think you have changed personally in the past (five) years?
- What challenges are you looking for in a position?
- What three trends do you see in the future for our industry?
- Tell me about yourself.
- Why do you want to work in (career field)?
- Why do you feel you will be successful in this program?
- What is your greatest strength/weakness, and how will it affect your performance in this program?
- What are some of the most creative things you have done?
- What characteristics do you think are important for this position?
- Tell me about your summer internship.
- How has your education at Notre Dame prepared you for a \_\_\_\_\_ position?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- What has been the biggest accomplishment in your life and why?
- Why should I hire you?

### BEHAVIORAL

- Give an example of a problem you have solved and the process you used.
- Describe a situation in which you had a conflict with another individual and how you dealt with it.
- What idea have you developed and implemented that was particularly creative or innovative?
- Tell me about a team project of which you are particularly proud and your contribution.
- What types of situations put you under pressure, and how do you deal with the pressure?
- Tell me about a situation when you had to persuade another person to your point of view.
- Describe a time when you added value to an existing work process.
- Describe a leadership role you have held, and tell me why you committed your time to it.
- In thinking about a past position you have held, what did you do to make your duties more effective?
- Describe one of the toughest competitive situations you have faced and how you handled it.
- What has been one of your greatest disappointments and how did you respond?
- Tell me about a time you failed.
- Describe a situation in which you were criticized, and how you responded.
- Tell me about a time you went above the call of duty.



## THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

It is important to know that some employers ask questions that seem very simple; however, the hidden meaning behind the questions may not be simple at all.

### WHAT INTERVIEWERS ASK YOU

1. Describe yourself. How does your background qualify you for this job?
2. What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
3. Why this job? Why this organization?
4. How would your peers describe you?
5. What makes you think you will succeed in this organization?
6. Why should we hire you? What do you bring to this job?

### WHAT THEY REALLY WANT TO KNOW IS

1. Can you take an incredible amount of information, organize it quickly in your head, and present it in a concise and articulate fashion?
2. How mature are you in dealing with your weaknesses? Can you identify methods for self-improvement?
3. Have you done your homework? Are you analytical?
4. How do you see yourself? Are you a leader or a follower? (A quiet confidence is needed here—not arrogance or egotism).
5. Have you accurately identified the skills and expertise needed to succeed? Can you prove you have them?
6. How are your promotion and persuasion skills? Are you believable? If you can't sell yourself, how will you be able to sell our products/company/ideas?