



The Interview Process

Is the interview required?

Not all schools require an interview, but you should be prepared. Often the director of admissions will conduct an informal interview when you shadow.

What is the purpose of an interview?

The interview provides the admissions director with another piece of information with which to evaluate you. If they have a tough decision between a group of candidates, they may use the results of the admissions interview to make their final choices. The interview also allows them to check whether the student is a good “fit” for the school and vice versa.

How can I do well at my interview?

First step to acing the interview is to research the school. Knowing more about the school will make it easier for you to answer questions like:

Why do you want to attend this school?

Why should our school want you as a student?

Practice answering questions with a friend or family member-

What are your future goals?

What is your greatest accomplishment?

What books have you read in the last year?

Doing your research will also help you prepare to ask questions of the interviewer. This isn't a one-sided thing. While they are deciding whether you are a good choice for their school, you need to be deciding whether their school is a good choice for you.

Prepare some questions to ask to show your interest in the school, such as-

What are some of the clubs?

What makes this school unique compared to the others?

Interview Day

When the day comes, it is important to set yourself up for success. Dress appropriately with a minimum of accessories, makeup, jewelry, and perfume/cologne.

Plan to arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow a few minutes to relax and prepare yourself mentally.

Once you get in the interview room and have made the necessary introductions, keep smiling and look the interviewer in the eye.

Provide more than “yes” or “no” answers. Keep your answers conversational and try to give specifics that back up your answers.

Be spontaneous. Although you should have practiced answering questions, answer honestly, naturally and spontaneously. Don’t memorize answers!

Be positive. Highlight the good things from your academic past and put a positive “spin” on your background.

Don’t forget to smile and maintain eye contact. The interviewer will automatically feel more comfortable about you. Smiling will also put some of your nerves at ease and will help relax you. Be aware of nonverbal communication-gestures, facial expressions, body language, and sounds.

After the interview, remember your manners and send a thank-you note.

Good Luck!

