

# Frequently Asked Interview Questions

## About Education

- Why did you choose The College of New Jersey?
- How would you assess your education?
- Are your grades good indicators of your abilities? Why?
- Why did you major in (your major)?
- Do you have plans for graduate work?
- Has your college experience prepared you for this career?
- Would you plan your academic studies differently? Why?
- Why haven't you done better academically?
- Describe your most rewarding college experience.

## Activities

- In what school activities have you participated? Why?
- What activities did you enjoy most?
- What leadership roles did you assume?
- Were your activities worth the time you devoted to them? Why?
- Describe your most rewarding college experience.
- What have you learned from your extra-curricular activities?

## Past Experiences

- What jobs have you held? How did you spend school vacations?
- What did you learn from past work experiences? Internships? Independent studies?
- What jobs have you enjoyed the most? The least? Why?

## You (Self Description)

- Tell me about yourself. How would you describe yourself?
- What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?
- Why should I hire you?
- What qualifications/personality traits do you have that will make you successful in this field?
- How do you determine or evaluate success?
- What have you learned from your mistakes?
- What are your three (3) greatest strengths? Weaknesses?
- How do you spend your spare time?
- What are you most proud of in your life so far?
- How do you respond to pressure?
- What types of people "rub" you the wrong way?
- What is the most valuable thing your parents taught you?

- Who is your hero? Who do you admire?
- How would a friend or professor describe you?
- Describe a problem you've encountered and how you dealt with it.

## Vocational Plans

- In what type of position are you most interested?
- Why (or how) did you choose this career?
- Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? 10 years from now?
- What rewards do you expect in your career?
- What are your ideal job specifications?
- If you were hired, how long do you think you would stay?
- What are your ideas on salary?
- What are your long and short range goals and objectives?
- When and why did you establish these goals and how are you preparing to achieve them?
- How do you plan to achieve your career goals?
- What do you expect to be earning in five years?
- How has college prepared you for this career?

## Behavioral Questions

- Give me an example of a time when someone criticized your work in front of others. How did you respond? How has that event shaped how you communicate with others?
- Describe a situation in which you recognized a potential problem as an opportunity? What did you do?
- Give me a specific example of a time when you sold your supervisor or professor on an idea or concept. How did you proceed? What was the result?
- Describe a time when you got co-workers or classmates who dislike each other to work together? How did you accomplish this? What was the outcome?
- Describe the system you use for keeping track of multiple projects. How do you track your progress so that you can meet deadlines?

## Preferences

- What work environment do you find most comfortable?
- What criteria are you using to evaluate the organization for which you hope to work?
- Do you have a geographic preference? Why?
- Are you willing to relocate/travel?
- Why do you think you might like to live in the community in which our organization is located?
- What part-time/summer jobs were most interesting? Why?
- Describe the ideal job for you following graduation.

## You in Relationship to Them

- Why do you want to work for us?
- What contribution can you make to our organization?
- If you were hiring for this job, what would you look for?
- What interests you about our product(s) or service(s)?
- What qualifications should a successful supervisor possess?
- What do you see as disadvantages of this type of job?
- Why should I hire you?
- What qualifications do you have that make you think that you will be successful with our organization?
- Describe the relationship that should exist between a supervisor and those reporting to him or her.
- What do you know about our company?

## Questions to Ask Employers

Begin your questions based on research you've completed about the company and/or industry. Consider:

- What skills and characteristics must an individual possess to succeed in this position?
- How will my performance be evaluated?
- Describe a typical day/routine for this position.
- Have you had or expect to have any staff reductions?
- What factors cause turnover in this area and why is this position presently vacant?
- What training is involved with this position?
- What are the typical career paths of individuals who begin in this position?
- Do you expect growth or expansion? What new products or services are in the developmental stages?
- Describe the corporate culture. What are the next steps in this process?