

Interview Tips Union College Admission Dept.
Tips for a good interview from the Union College Admissions staff

Preparation

- Read materials about the college you are visiting.
- Schedule an appointment
- Know whether the interview is evaluative or informational.
- Tour before your interview, if possible.
- Be sure that you are not hungry, hot or angry before your interview.

Greeting

- When the interviewer calls your name, greet him/her with a handshake and a smile.
- Introduce your parents or siblings, if they are with you.

The Interview Itself

- Be prepared to speak about yourself.
- Be prepared to ask questions about the college.
- Use a notebook or 3" by 5" card to remind you of key questions.
- Remember to use good posture and to maintain appropriate eye contact.
- Use correct grammar.
- Avoid inappropriate language and "like", "you know" or "um."
- Take time to think before you answer questions.
- Exude confidence.

For Parents

If your parents are invited to join the interview, suggest that they ask the same questions at each college.

- Decide in advance if you want your parents to ask if you are qualified for college.

Using the interview to Your Best Advantage

Ask the interviewer about successful applications to the college; what yours should include.

If you want to know how your qualifications match a particular college, you can ask your interviewer.

After the Interview

- Write a short note to your interviewer thanking him or her.
- In the note include a reference to something specific from the interview.
- If you have a question that was not answered include that in your note.

Tips for a successful College Interview -- The Skidmore College Admissions Dept.

1. Know what the interview means at each college. Is it purely informational or intended to help evaluate you as a candidate?
An evaluative interview is conducted to allow you to introduce yourself in a way that distinguishes you from many other candidates applying for admissions. It is conducted in a friendly, conversational manner during which you will be encouraged to discuss school, your courses, your activities, and your personal and academic goals. It will become a part of your application.
2. Know something about the college before you visit. Do your homework. You are not expected to be an expert on the College, but you should be aware of some facts before your interview. Viewbooks, catalogues, and college guides are good sources of information.
3. Think about your high school years. Be introspective. What do you do with your "free time?" How would your parents describe you and what would your favorite teacher say? Your friends? How have you spent your summers? Have you worked?
4. Know your high school. The college you apply to will assess your achievements within the context of your high school.

- Are honors classes offered? AP's? an IB program? How large is your high school? How many in your class?
5. Watch your language! Avoid slang and don't allow "you know" or "like" or "um" to dominate your conversation.
 6. Be aware of your body language. Establish good eye contact. Be aware of how you act when you are nervous.
 7. Be prepared to ask questions. Make a list prior to the interview and refer to it during the interview.
 8. Dress comfortably. Most interviewers recommend that you wear clothes that are comfortable for it will help you feel good about yourself. You don't have to "dress up". Be neat, but be yourself. Look well "put together."
 9. Be honest. Don't try to guess the "right answers" to questions. Truthfulness is a powerful impression to make in an interview
 10. Be sure to follow-up after the interview. Interviewers, like everyone else, appreciate being thanked for their time. Obtain the interviewers name and send a personal note after returning home. Colleges notice this gesture and it helps to reinforce a positive impression. If you enjoy your interview and visit, find out about opportunities for you to stay overnight on campus, sit in on classes or attend upcoming special events.