



There's no way to know what you'll be asked, but there are ways to prepare for every question!

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMICS  
CAREER  
SERVICES

David Kinley Hall  
Room 214



[econ-careers@illinois.edu](mailto:econ-careers@illinois.edu)



PREPARING  
FOR THE  
INTERVIEW



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW

## "Tell me about yourself"

- This is a standard question you will face at a lot of interviews
- Have a well-practiced elevator pitch that walks them through your experiences and goals

## "Why are you interested in working for our company?"

- Before every interview, research the company by looking through their website, relevant news, and the job description for the position you want
- Show them that you care about their company

## "How has your experience (and/or education) prepared you for this job?"

- Choose a relevant aspect of your experience that directly relates to the position you're interviewing for
- If education, focus on the skills you gained from your coursework
- Have a well-practiced elevator pitch that walks them through your experiences and goals

## "Why did you choose U of I?"

- Think back to your college search, why did U of I stand out
- What about U of I specifically was in line with your goals and values?
- Focus on the positive aspects that make you glad you chose this school

## "What are your strengths (or weaknesses)?"

- Strengths: What positive qualities do you have that will help you on the job? Have an example to back up your claim.
- Weaknesses: Choose a quality that you are working on, but doesn't affect job performance

## "Where do you see yourself in five years?"

- You do not need to answer this question with specifics, it's better to keep it general
- The employer wants to see if the company fits into your goals
- Put an emphasis on your interest in the position and company

## Don't forget to ask questions!

### "Do you have any questions for me?"

- Prepare at least three relevant questions to ask each interviewer
- Do your research before the interview to avoid asking things that are clearly stated on the company website or in the job description
- Example questions are
  - "What do you like most about working for this company?"
  - "What more can you tell me about a typical day on the job?"

## Other Ways to Prepare

- Pick out your business professional outfit a few days before, have it ironed and ready at least one day before
- Print resumes and put them in your padfolio
- Know how you will be getting to the interview site to eliminate any stress the day of
- Follow the company LinkedIn and view the profiles of the recruiters