

Example college Interview Questions

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question seems easier than it is. How do you reduce your whole life to a few sentences? And it's hard to avoid commonplace answers like "I'm friendly" or "I'm a good student." Of course, you want to demonstrate that you're friendly and studious, but try also to say something memorable here that really makes you different from other college applicants. Did you teach your dog to play the piano? Do you make a killer roast dinner? Do you do your best thinking when on a 100-mile bike ride? Do you read books late at night with a flashlight?

2. Why are you interested in our college?

Be specific when answering this and show that you've done your research. What specifically about the college distinguishes it from others you are considering? The interviewer is hoping that you are interested in the college for reasons other than peer pressure or convenience. Similarly, if you say you applied entirely because of a parent or teacher's recommendation, you'll be suggesting that you lack initiative and have few thoughts of your own.

3. Who in your life has most influenced you?

There are other variations of this question i.e. Who's your hero? What historical or fictional character would you most like to be like and why? This can be an awkward question if you haven't thought about it, so spend a few minutes considering how you would answer. In this question, the interviewer may want to see if you can think on your feet or think creatively, or even get you to try and reveal more about your character. Therefore, identify a few real, historical, and fictional characters you admire, and be prepared to articulate WHY you admire them.

4. Why do you want to study-----?

It is OK if you have not decided what course/s you want to study when you apply to college - your interviewer will not be disappointed if you say you have several interests and have not yet decided. However, if you have identified a course, be prepared to explain why. Avoid saying that you want to study something because you'll make a lot of money one day - your passion for a subject will make you a good college student, not your love of money.

5. What do you do for fun in your free time?

'Hangin' out and 'chillin' is a weak answer for this question. College life obviously isn't all work, so the college admissions staff want students who will do interesting and productive things even when they aren't studying. Do you write? Fish? Play a sport? Answer a question such as this one to show that you are well-rounded with a variety of interests.

6. Do your predicted grades accurately reflect your effort and ability?

In the interview or on your application, you often have an opportunity to explain a bad grade or a bad year at school. Be careful with this issue -- you don't want to come across as a moaner or as someone who blames others for a low grade. However, if you really did have valid reasons, let the college know.

7. What can I tell you about our college?

You can almost guarantee that your interviewer will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Make sure you have some, and make sure your questions are thoughtful and specific to the particular college. Avoid questions that you can easily find the answer to yourself, such as "when is the application deadline?" or "how many subjects do you offer?"