

Interviewing Tips

Preparing for your Interview:

- Have 3-4 points you want to hit within your interview, and make sure you discuss them.
- Read up on the scholarship/fellowship that you are applying for and be prepared to answer questions testing your knowledge.
- Know your application inside and out. Be prepared for misunderstandings or challenges to your positions and calmly and thoughtfully address them in a non-confrontational manner.
- Be prepared to explain why you are the best candidate for the Scholarship/Fellowship (in 30 seconds or less).
- Read up on current events from diverse sources (local, national & international). Read three newspapers/periodicals a day for two weeks prior to your interview.
- Be prepared to answer questions that might be unexpected (e.g., personal interests, last book you read, movie, etc.).
- Be prepared to answer any question related to a course you took.
- Be prepared for seemingly personal or hostile, antagonistic questions about your beliefs or capabilities.
- Stay focused.
- Get rest.

Appearance

- Dress professionally. <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/jobs-internships/appearance-and-attire/dressing-for-interviews.html>
- Be relaxed and conversational. Body language, posture, and energy matter.
- Avoid fidgeting, spinning in your chair, wringing your hands or any other repetitive motion that would detract from what you are saying.
- Look amongst the committee members when you are answering the questions. Don't just focus on the person who asked the question.
- Avoid verbal ticks such as "umm," "like," etc. These make you seem less prepared and unprofessional.

The day of the interview:

- Eat a good breakfast
- Arrive 5-10 minutes early.
- Be relaxed and conversational, and thank the committee at the end.

Interviewing don'ts:

- Arrive late or appear rushed or disorganized.
- Seem over-eager and desperate.
- Apologize for your background or experience.
- Ask questions that you know the answers to.
- Oversell your qualities.
- Ask about award benefits or monetary gains
- Elaborate on unnecessary details to fill an awkward silence.
- Wear unusual clothes or heavy cologne; always be very conservative.

Interviewing Resources:

- <http://careernetwork.msu.edu/jobs-internships/interviewing/index.html>
- <https://www.unigo.com/pay-for-college/scholarships/5-tips-for-successful-scholarship-interviews>
- <https://www.unigo.com/pay-for-college/scholarships/how-to-answer-common-scholarship-interview-questions>