Sample Interview Question

General Career and Professional Success Questions:

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. Why are you applying for this position?
3. Why do you want to work here?
4. How long have you been engaged in this job search?
5. How much do you think this position is worth?
6. What are your salary requirements?
7. What type of professional publications have you written for?
8. What type of volunteer activities are you involved in?
9. How do you work best, with others or alone?
10. Are you willing to take risks when necessary?
11. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
12. Have you ever been fired?
13. What are some things you find difficult to do?
14. What are your long range and short-range objectives, when and why did you establish these goals and how are you preparing yourself to achieve them?
15. What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
16. What do you expect to be earning in five years?
17. What are your educational goals?
18. What were your favorite courses in school? Why?
19. Do you have any international experience? Do you speak any foreign languages?
20. How good are your technical skills?
21. How do you learn?

22. Describe a time on any job when you’ve confronted problems/stresses that tested you coping skill?

23. How do you work under pressure?

24. Describe your problem solving skills.

25. What is an example of a complex problem that you’ve solved?

26. How have you improved yourself recently?

27. Describe a time when you used facts/figures to persuade others.

28. What skills do you rely on in your everyday work?

29. What kind of training could you benefit from?

30. Have you ever lost track of time at work? What were you doing?

31. Why did you choose this occupation or industry?

32. What qualifications do you possess that make you qualified for this position?

33. Why should we hire you?

34. If you could begin your career all over again, what would you do differently?

35. What qualities should a good manager, chair, dean or supervisor possess?

36. Describe the type of relationship that should exist between a supervisor and subordinate and why?

37. What led you to select the college/university you attended?

38. How are your time management skills?

39. What makes you better than your competition?

40. What is your first 90-day success plan?

41. Have you done the best work that you’re capable of doing?

42. What is your biggest accomplishment to date?

43. What does it mean to be a team player?

44. Do you consider yourself a leader?
45. Are you a better manager or better implementer?

46. Have you ever hired, trained or fired someone?

47. What did your last professional review say about you?

48. What motivates you?

49. What are two things you wish to avoid in your next job?

50. What kinds of things come naturally to you?

Organization Specific Questions:
51. What do you know about our organization/department/division?

52. If you were in charge of hiring for this position, what would you look for in a candidate, why?

53. Why is student success important to you?

54. Why do you want to work here?

55. After reading the job description, how do you see yourself fitting in here?

56. What do you know about our culture?

57. How do you define a good work atmosphere?

58. How will your past experiences and education contribute positively to our organization?

59. What is the worst thing that you’ve heard about our organization/department/division?

60. What are the biggest challenges facing our industry today?

61. What can you do to improve our organization’s positions?

62. What research have you done on our organization? How did you conduct this research?

Character, Interpersonal Intelligence and Trending Questions:
63. Who has been your worst supervisor to date, and why?

64. What is more important to you, the money or type of job?

65. How do you handle rejection?
66. How would you describe yourself to a professional colleague you’ve never met before?

67. How would you think a professor or a friend might describe you?

68. How do you determine or evaluate success?

69. What qualifications do you have that will help you succeed in life?

70. Describe your most rewarding college experience?

71. What changes would you make to your current organization/department/college, if given the chance?

72. What have you learned from past mistakes on the job?

73. What was your most rewarding experience at work and why?

74. What makes you a great leader?

75. What has been the biggest challenge that you’ve faced as a leader?

76. Tell us something that you are not proud of. Why?

77. Tell us about a time when you disagreed with your supervisor?

78. What did you dislike about your last job?

79. How have you handled an angry customer/client/student/parent?

80. What types of people find you difficult to work with?

81. How do you manage difficult people?

82. What have been your biggest frustrations?

83. If asked, what would your colleagues/supervisors/people at your previous organization say about you?

84. If you were stuck in a jungle with only a knife and needed to survive what would be the first thing you’d do and why?

85. See this pen I’m holding? Sell it to me.