

# Preparing for Your College Interview

Use this guide to help you get ready to have successful college interviews.

Being prepared will help you stay calm and confident.

## Before the Interview

- Do some research! You don't need to become an expert, but explore the college's website and see if there are any majors or clubs that jump out at you. The interviewer is going to ask why you're interested in the school, so make sure you have something to say!
- Make notes about your academic background and high school experiences, as well as your life outside the classroom (including activities, community service, and hobbies).
- Familiarize yourself with common interview questions (below!) and do some practice interviews with a friend or family member.
- Prepare some questions to ask your interviewer. An important part of the interview is for you to learn about the school. Curious about the campus culture, day in the life of a student, student traditions? Ask!

## After the Interview

- Make notes about what you talked about and the answers to your questions. (It's also okay to take notes during the interview).
- Send a thank you note to the interviewer. It doesn't need to be too elaborate, just a quick email that thanks the person for their time. Bonus: refer to something specific you and the interviewer discussed.

## Common Interview Questions

### School Interest

- How did you first learn about our school? (a teacher, a friend, an alum, the internet, etc.)
- Why are you interested in our school?

Why we ask: We want to know that you're actually interested in our school and that you've done some research and thought about whether it's a good fit for you.

### Academics

- What's your favorite class you've taken in high school? Why? (Is it your favorite subject? Was the teacher amazing? Did you love the group project at the end of the year?)
- What is your high school like? (How big is it? Are classes small or large? Are there a lot of extracurricular options?)
- How do you learn best?

Why we ask: Because academics are such a big part of the college experience, we like to get an idea about your academic interests and your learning style. It helps us understand you as a person and as a student.

### Personal Interests and Goals

- What do you do when you're not in class? (Think: extracurriculars, sports, jobs, community service, family responsibilities, hobbies)
- Do you have a favorite book, or one that you recommend everyone read?
- Do you know what you want to do after you graduate from college?

Why we ask: At college, you'll be a member of a larger community. We like to know what is important to you, get to know you better 'off paper', and get a sense of how you would contribute to our campus community.