

Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

Points possible: 50

Category	Criteria	% of Grade
Completeness	All requirements of the assignment are complete.	50
Quality	Answers show thought, proper grammar, and would be acceptable in most interview situations.	50

Instructions: Find a job post online for a role and company you would like to apply for. Answer the following questions as if you were being interviewed for the job. Research the STAR method of answering behavioral interview questions and where applicable, utilize the STAR method in answering the below questions.

How did you hear about this position? (Make sure you remember where you heard about the role so it doesn't look like you are just applying randomly to every position possible.)

LinkedIn

What do you know about the company? (Research the company, website, products/services, and reviews. Talk about good reviews that make you want to join.)

Operate in large-scale data management and security. Has no backend.

Why do you want this job? (Be very specific. Talk about what appeals to you about the role but focus more on the value you'll add to the team and company rather than what the company will do for you.)

I like the idea of dealing in big data, the company also seems to prioritize the health of their workers with benefits/reasonable pay etc. There's room to grow. The work environment itself seems healthy – fully remote positions.

Why should we hire you? (Be very specific. Talk about your skills, passion, and willingness to continuously learn to be an asset.)

I have a unique background in problem solving. Teaching and performing music there's constant troubleshooting whenever you're singing personally or teaching somebody else. I've found these skills translate incredibly well to coding. You'll see incredible growth by investing in me, and I'm sure I'll turn into an asset for the company that you can rely on. I'm continuously trying to adapt and become better, whether it's personally or as a software engineer. I believe you could provide that environment for me, and hope you'll take a chance.

What is your greatest professional achievement? (STAR)

During my senior year of college, for my senior capstone I needed to put on a hour long performance that required I sing in at least 3 different languages, and had a contrasting set of music.

The goal was to sing an hour long set of English, Italian, German, Latin and French – showcasing everything that I had done that year.

The part I feel the most accomplished in is the daily tenacity it took to meet that goal. Practicing daily, continuous study and application of technique and diction skills. Reaching out to new/old mentorship and voice coaches to find different ways to approach the music itself or the memorization. Organizing a space to sing in and staff to accompany me on piano for it – as well as some duets.

The result was incredibly fulfilling. I still look back on it and think “Jesus, I really memorized all of that music and sounded great while doing it.” While I still think there were some preparatory things I could of done better, like not over singing the week before – the final result was still great. I nailed my senior capstone – the culmination of my time at Pacific Lutheran University.

Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it. (STAR. Never speak negatively about anyone else or any companies. Perhaps talk about change you experiences, as change is always difficult to overcome.)

When I was music directing this show, I was in charge of organizing all of the singers and the band members. We we’re in performance week and one of our basses was diagnosed with covid. Unfortunately it was too late to find a replacement for that night, so I ended up distributing new notes and a new plan 30 minutes before showtime so that the other instruments/players could fill in so the overall sound was still fine.

What are your goals for the future? (Make sure you answer in a time bound manner and talk about how you are looking to learn as much as possible in your field.)

Basically looking for financial freedom. I’d like to eventually work fully remote and move to France/Germany – find somebody to settle down with and own a house with a incredible Steinway piano.

Why are you leaving your last job? (Don’t say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.)

Covid made teaching private voice incredibly difficult to find and maintain new students. I’m looking for something more reliable that I can be successful in – so that one day I can focus on music in my free time instead of making it a full time gig.

What is your salary expectation?

62-64k/year starting – shooting for 90k+ in the first year.

