

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.

Job: [Software Engineer Intern](#) (Santa Monica, CA)

How did you hear about this position?

I heard about this position through some of my connections on LinkedIn. There was an article on the top ten Edtech companies in Los Angeles on the website Built in LA that caught my attention. I began exploring the site to see what positions were available in different organizations, the benefits they offer, and the values that companies stand for. GoodRx stood out to me due to its mission to help people find convenient and affordable healthcare. Another aspect that stood out is GoodRx's commitment to grow and empower a more inclusive community within the company. I believe that when team members feel empowered, they bring the best in themselves and empower others in return.

What do you know about the company?

I know that GoodRx believes that everyone deserves affordable and convenient healthcare. The mission of the company is to find better ways to find the right care for people at the best price. Guided by this mission, GoodRx has saved Americans more than \$35 billion since 2011.

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 want to be part of a company like GoodRx that is guided by a strong mission to improve the livelihood of others through access to affordable healthcare. Also, I felt compelled and encouraged to apply for the role of Software Developer at GoodRx given its commitment to leveling the playing field within the organization. I would like to join GoodRx because the engineers in this company put the customers first and have a deep sense of ownership of the products and services provided.

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

I believe I'm a great candidate for this position because my values align with the GoodRx mission of being of service to others. As an educator in my previous roles, I dedicated myself to be of service to my students, their families, and my teacher colleagues. Every time I wrote a lesson plan, I tried to make sure that my students would be able to understand it, especially those who did not know the language yet or had special needs. Active communication with parents was also crucial in making sure that students were not following behind in their academics. I'm a great candidate because I am a lifelong learner who loves to challenge myself to do things that are difficult. From learning taking dance classes, to studying abroad and writing academic papers in another language, to becoming a teacher as an introvert, I like like challenging myself by becoming a little bit better everyday. My current challenge is to be the best software developer that I can be by being open to constructive feedback, learning from others, and sharing my insights to others.

What is your greatest professional achievement? (STAR)

My greater professional achievement so far was becoming an 8th grade teacher. When I was a student I was a very shy student and I could not imagine myself standing in front of a room full of people and giving a lesson, so becoming a teacher was out of the question. When I went to community college I realized that I wanted to give back to my community and decided to go into education. I joined a community of educators who were high achievers and implanted solid structures to everything, from lesson plans to correcting student behavior. After a few years, I was confident enough to take on the role as a teacher. I was able to multi-task by creating daily lesson plans, contacting families, planning events like back-to-school night, field trips, graduation, helping students through emotional issues, and other teaching tasks. This time require me to spend time outside of work to get the job done and ask for assistance from my

manager when I needed to brainstorm on possible ways to make a lesson more engaging. At the end I had cultivated strong relationships with my students, which is key helping them learn, and everyone was able to graduate from middle school.

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.)

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.)

My goal for the future is to be senior developer and have the opportunity to mentors future generations of software developers. This will be very rewarding as I would be shaping the next generation of coders.

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

I love working with students and helping them grow socially and academically. I met and learned so much from my colleagues in every school that I've worked with and I extremely grateful for helping me grow as educator. However, the teaching profession is extremely underpaid for the amount of work that is constantly added to teacher's to-do list. I was fortunate that enough to have worked with empathetic principals and vice-principals that tried their best to support teachers in the best way they could. I felt like it was time for me to move on and pursue a new career that is not only challenging but that has the potential for career growth. Becoming a teacher helped me build those muscles that allow me to take on challenging tasks and seen things through growth mindset, which are soft skills that come in handy in the field of software engineering.

What is your salary expectation?

From what I know about the position, I think somewhere in the area of \$67k – \$70k.