



## Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

### **How did you hear about this position?**

I looked up Sandhill Global specifically and found a posting on indeed.com.

### **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.)

I know of Sandhills Global through word-of-mouth from my instructors at Southeast Community College as well as other students around me working as interns at Sandhills Global. I know they provide services for a range of industries including aviation, heavy machinery, agriculture, trucking, and technology industries. They do everything from publishing trade information to creating websites to hosting cloud-based services.

I know they require programmers to wear suits, which in my mind raises the level of professionalism on a subconscious level. I have also met some of the people who work there when, in my last job, we did some lighting work for them. They were all very nice and seemed to enjoy working there.

I have also met the owners, again in my last job. We did sound and lighting for a few weddings on their land in rural Lincoln, which included lighting roadways and a grass parking lot large enough for eighty+ cars. The owners were pleased and accommodating as we worked for days to set up the wedding venues.

### **Why do you want this job?**

I am interested in continuing to develop my coding skills while learning the details of the way this company writes code. I love puzzles and I view writing code as a giant, never-ending puzzle that I want to solve. My enthusiasm for solving problems lets me help motivate others to keep working to find solutions.

### **Why should we hire you?**

I am a problem-solving thinker with a calm and patient demeanor. I have been successful in groups as a team member, and as a team leader. I also have proven capability in completing independent projects. I enjoy learning new things and seeing how small parts can add up to complete a large project, and how large projects can join together to become huge, successful projects.



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### **What is your greatest professional achievement?**

In my last job, the company I was working for was tasked with redoing the sound system for a small live theatre after a couple of tons of rocks fell through the ceiling and did much damage to the audience area, including water damage due to heavy rains before the hole in the ceiling could be covered.

After the structural repairs were done, we set about rehangng all the speakers in a better configuration, and reworking the wiring for the sound system patch bay, including adding new equipment.

Not long after we completed all the work, the theatre was scheduled to open a new play. A few days before opening night, someone plugged two outputs together and damaged the sound control board.

There was no way to get a new soundboard in time and nobody had a board they could loan to the theatre. My boss and I were able to take apart the soundboard, and using my skills in electronics and my boss's skills in sound engineering, we were able to diagnose the problem, find the affected areas of the circuitry in the soundboard, and repair it enough to be used until money could be raised for a new soundboard.

### **Describe a difficult work situation and how you overcame it.**

When I was on the USS Midway in the late 1980s working on the Phalanx CIWS Gun Fire Control system, we received an upgrade in the radar section of a solid-state modulator. Everything was working great until our first maintenance on the radar system with the new modulator. A circuit board ahead of the modulator in the signal flow blew a chip that caused the entire radar system to be inactive. After many days and weeks of troubleshooting, including having factory representatives come to the ship in Japan, no solution could be found.

Because of my experience with the radar system, I was the only one who was able to get through the maintenance check without the chip blowing. Maintenance was a strict requirement for the Navy so it could not be skipped. The radar system seemed to work fine when we were actually searching and tracking targets; just the maintenance test was the issue.

Finally, after 6 months, I was able to convince my leading petty officer to let me try switching the modulator from the starboard system with the modulator from the port system. It had been tried before but the starboard modulator, the one with the issue, did not seem to work in the port system at all.

Once I switched the modulators, I made sure everything was seated properly and the settings were adjusted for the different radar systems, we never had the problem again.



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### **What are your goals for the future?**

I wish to further my education and experience with on-the-job learning and eventually be able to move into a teaching and/or supervisory capacity within the next five years.

### **Why are you leaving your last job?**

I left my last job because arthritis in my knees was progressing and preventing me from being to do the movement required for technical theatre. I could no longer bend my knees properly to be able to lift heavy items.

### **What is your salary expectation?**

As an entry-level programmer, I would expect to start at the low end of the pay scale, around \$25 per hour.