**SAMPLE QUESTIONS**

There are two types of questions you will encounter -- behavioral (most common) and traditional. There is a distinct difference between the two. Your preparation will help you feel comfortable and confident with both.

**Traditional interviews**  
Questions are organized around your resume which is used as a guide to probe your preferences, decisions, and accomplishments. How to prepare: Know your resume and be ready to communicate what you have learned from each of your decisions and accomplishments.

* [Tell me about yourself](http://www.ncsu.edu/career/pdfs/tellme.pdf).
* Why did you choose to interview with our organization?
* Describe your ideal job.
* What do you consider to be your greatest strengths?
* What is your proudest accomplishment?
* What motivates you most in a job?
* Why did you choose your major? NC State?
* Which classes did you enjoy most? Least?
* How do you account for your GPA?
* If you were to start over, what would you change about your education?
* What did you enjoy most about each position?  Least?
* How would your supervisor describe you?
* What kind of manager brings out your best?
* What role do you typically take on a team?
* What do you know about our organization?
* How do you feel about working in a structured environment?  Unstructured?
* How do you feel about travel?
* Are you interested in relocating?
* Where do you want to be in five years?
* Do you plan to go to graduate school?
* Why should we hire you?

**Behavioral interviews**

Questions follow the **STAR technique** and are based upon the notion that past performance is a good indicator of future performance. How to prepare: identify 2-3 challenging situations or experiences to draw from (academics, experience, projects or community).  
  
S ------ situation ---- give an example of a situation   
T ------ task ---------- describe the tasks involved   
A ------ action -------- explain how you responded  
R ------ results ------ describe the (positive) outcome or result

* Describe a situation in which you were able to use persuasion to successfully convince someone to see things your way.
* Describe a time when you were faced with a stressful situation that demonstrated your coping skills.
* Give me a specific example of a time when you used good judgment and logic in solving a problem.
* Give me an example of a time when you set a goal and were able to meet or achieve that goal.
* Tell me about a time when you had to use your presentation skills to influence someone’s opinion.
* Give me an example of a time when you had to conform to a policy which you did not agree.
* Please discuss an important written document you were required to complete.
* Tell me about a time when you had to go above and beyond the call of duty to get a job done.
* Tell me about a time when you had too many things to do and you were required to prioritize your tasks.
* Give me an example of a time when you had to make a split second decision.
* What is your typical way of dealing with conflict?  Give me an example.
* Tell me about a difficult decision you have made in the last year.
* Give me an example of a time when something you tried to accomplish failed.
* Give me an example of a time when you showed initiative and took the lead.
* Tell me about a recent situation in which you had to deal with an upset customer or co-worker.
* Give me an example of a time when you motivated others.
* Tell me about a time when you missed an obvious solution to a problem.
* Describe a time when you anticipated potential problems and developed preventive measures.
* Tell me about a time when you were forced to make an unpopular decision.
* Describe a time when you set your sights too high (or too low).
* Give me an example of the most creative project you have worked on.