# Career Services Assignment 4 – Soft Skill Interview Prep

**Points possible:** 50

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| 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.)

I first saw this position by looking on the jobs portion of the Nintendo website, but I also saw a parallel posting on 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.)

I’ve followed Nintendo for my entire life. Nintendo gaming systems are by far the most numerous in my collection, and my list of favorite games is populated almost exclusively by Nintendo titles. Nintendo has grown so much over the course of my life and made such a positive mark on the world. It's defined childhood for multiple generations of people, providing unrivaled entertainment and fun, the chance to meet new people and make new friends, and even some opportunities for personal discovery. Everything I’ve seen and experienced myself indicates that it's only going to get better. I want to be a part of that mission and a part of that growth.

**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 think my skills as a developer, and my experience managing enterprise-level software systems pair perfectly with the demands of this position. I know that I can contribute to this team in a positive way, both productively and culturally. Additionally, I think my professional goals are in line with the goals of Nintendo. I would love the chance to grow with this team and this company.

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

I think my variety of educational and work experiences would make me a unique addition to any team. My work has always been driven by customer service, but many of the jobs I've had in the past were specialty retail or labor. Folks like me, with a degree in philosophy, tend to go into law or academia, and while the degree is not profoundly marketable on its surface, to me, there's no better place to develop your comprehension, critical thinking skills, and ability to understand and convey difficult concepts and subject matter. It also couples well with my creative side, which I think is a unique asset. I’m reliable, communicative, and efficient with my work.

**What is your greatest professional achievement?** (STAR)

Implementing a new facilities maintenance software at a state institution is my greatest professional achievement to date. I co-managed the transition at UM starting in 2018. Part of what makes these implementations challenging is preparing for a 6-9 month slog through discovery sessions, data gathering and conversion projects, and training courses. In this specific occasion, coming from a home-grown, 30-year-old, DOS-based application, and pulling a reluctant collection of traditional trades folks into the modern world made the order even taller. But it also made a successful transition that much more gratifying in the end. Additionally, leading that charge and teaching others necessitated a mastery of the software, so I can say with confidence that I know the FAMIS system better than anyone at UM, because I have to.

**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.)

The implementation of the aforementioned software was absolutely a difficult task. Change of that degree is always going to present some challenges to an operation, and many of them are ones you didn’t necessarily anticipate. A lot of people will have questions and get frustrated by the unfamiliarity. When you’re in charge of a transition like that, it’s imperative to understand the challenges that others are dealing with and listen sympathetically to their concerns. People’s frustrations will subside with time, and their questions will be come less frequent the more they work with the software. Their questions might also help you streamline the operation in ways you hadn’t initially considered.

**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.)

I always want to be learning something. Whether that's a new skill, or insight into a specific industry or field or market, every year I want to be learning something new. and I also want to be earning greater responsibility. I believe everyone has an ability to make an impact on the world, but the more responsibility you have, the broader that impact can be.

**Why are you leaving your last job?** (Don’t say anything negative. Mention growth, changing industries, etc.) Working in Higher Education has been a very rewarding experience. It has provided a great transition between my schooling years and my introduction into professional life. That said, I’m interested in seeing what other industries have to offer. Higher Education has a very noble focus, but it’s very specific in its vision, and the worlds of Tech and Business seem to have a broader reach, with more potential for variety and expansion.

**What is your salary expectation?**

My target salary in this role would be 75k/year. I have aspirations for something higher, but to start, that amount would feel comfortable.