Common Interview Questions for Computer Science & Innovation and Software Engineering Majors

Interviewing with companies for software engineering positions, whether large or small, have a variety of approaches and timelines in the hiring process. Generally speaking, larger companies have a more formal interview process involving a selection committee who conducts phone interviews, having a video web chat online, and one or more site visits. Smaller companies may have a more streamlined approach resulting in a quick phone interview with their recruiter followed by an interview on site. Most of the questions you will be asked are geared towards your technological proficiency. Some will be inquiring about your personality and teamwork skills.

➢ What questions can I expect as a Software Engineering Major?

- Tell us a little about yourself.
- How do you anticipate using the skills/knowledge you've acquired in your internship in your classes next year?
- Software Engineering is a rigorous major.   What has been your most challenging course so far?
- What insights would you share with your classmates about the SWE major?
- Give two examples of things you've done on the job or in school that demonstrate your willingness to work hard.
- What sorts of things have you done to become better qualified for your career?
- It is very important to build good relationships at work but sometimes it doesn't always work out. If you can, tell me about a time when you were not able to build a successful relationship with a difficult person.
- Describe how your position on a group project contributed to your team's goals. What are the team's goals/mission?
- Some people consider themselves to be "big picture people" and others are "detail oriented". Which are you? Give an example of a time when you displayed this.
- Describe the most significant written document, report or presentation which you had to complete.
- Describe a work situation in which you had to take a risk. What was the outcome?
- Has anyone ever asked you to do something unethical? What did you do?
- Tell me about a time you had to confront a peer, customer or colleague.
- Describe a time when you served as a project manager.
- In a current job task, tell me about the steps you go through to ensure your decisions are correct/effective.
- What do you do when you are faced with an obstacle to an important project? Give an example.
- Give me an example of when you had to go above and beyond the call of duty to get a job done.
- Tell us about a time when you took responsibility for an error and were held personally accountable.
- Do you have any questions for us?

Common Interview Questions

Examples:

- Please tell me about yourself.
- What makes you interested in this position?
- What do you know about our organization?
- What do you consider your greatest strengths?
- What would former coworkers/professors/supervisors say about you if we called them as a reference?
- Why did you choose this field?
- How did your college experience prepare you for a career in this field?
- Describe the work environment that makes you thrive.

More Examples:

- If you have ever dealt with difficult people, how did you manage conflict?
- What are your proven coping mechanisms in challenging times?
- If creative, where you do get your inspiration?
- Convince me you are the perfect match for our opening.
- What sort of pay do you expect to receive?
- How does your previous experience relate to the job we have open?
- How did you get along with your last boss?
- What is the hardest job you've ever held?
- Do you have any questions for us?

Top 10 Things to Consider for the Interview

- An interview is a conversation about what you can do for them; research the company and tailor your responses towards substantiating how your talents and personality match the position.
- Rehearse interview questions out loud with a friend, family member, or your Career Advisor.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes early, but enter the premises 8-10 minutes early.
- Bring copies of your resume and reference sheet with you to offer.
- Use professional language and avoid slang words such as "uh," "um," "you know," and "like."
- Body language should be professional: good posture, not slouched, good eye contact but not staring. Watch the nervous habits of twirling hair, tapping a foot, or drumming fingers.
- Smile. It'll help you ---and them--- relax!
- Be prepared to offer evidence through detailed examples of times and ways and situations you used certain technical applications, characteristics, or skills.
- Collect their business cards so you can follow up with a thank you card or e-mail.
- After the interview, take notes on everything you can remember and use the experience to further develop your interview techniques.