UCI Division of Career Pathways

Tips for the Technical Interview

Types of Interviews

- Phone
- Video interview
- In-person Interviews:
  - One-on-one
  - Panel
  - Group

Before the Interview

- Research, review and Google yourself

- Research company, job and industry

- Search for any questions asked in past interviews, i.e. via Glassdoor

- Practice aloud

- Dress appropriately

- Prepare what to bring to the interview

- Arrive early

During the Interview

- Have a firm handshake
- Exhibit appropriate body language
- Active listening
- Show your personality and enthusiasm. Be positive
- Be polite to everyone
- Monitor volume, clarity & rate of speech
- Give examples, be specific
- Avoid saying, "I don't know"
- Be concise
- Quantify, when possible

Responding to Opening Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why are you interested in this field? Know your field – theories & concepts
- Why are you interested in this position? Review technologies and skills related to position
- Why are you interested in working for this company? What do you know about our company?
- Prepare stories from projects, internships, jobs, etc. on how you have applied these skills

Sample Technical Questions

- How is your education/experience/technical skills related to this position?
- Have you taken any database classes?
- Define the term _____.
- What is your approach to testing?
- Have you been involved in any school project that included all phases of the software development life cycle?
- What experience do you have in an agile development environment?
- Tell me about a project where you used AutoCAD/Solidworks
- How would you approach this problem…
- Describe the basic elements of an integrated circuit
- Given an array of integers, remove all duplicate integers
- What advantage does an arch have over a beam?
- What are ways to filter contaminants in drinking water?

Responding to Technical Questions

- Break down the question and show your thought process. It's OK think out loud
- Show you can effectively communicate complex problems
- For vague or complex questions, feel free to clarify with questions
- What if you don't know the answer? ***Show your problem solving skills.*** It's the journey that matters. Have a process of solving problems and describe your steps
- Share what you can bring and offer. Convey you are a good fit
  - PRACTICE!

Behavioral Interview Questions

Use B-A-R-T approach:

<u>B</u>ackground – <u>A</u>ction – <u>R</u>esults – <u>T</u>ie Back

Tell me about a time when you took a leadership role
Tell me about a project where you used AutoCAD/Solidworks

Background	Action	Results	Tie Back
Last year I was the VP of Membership for the American Marketing Association.	During the fall quarter, I developed and implemented a marketing campaign to increase awareness about our club on campus and grow our membership. I organized outreach tables, made announcements in management classes and sent out weekly emails to publicize our events.	As a result, we doubled our membership from 25 to 50 members over the course of 4 months.	What I learned from this experience is marketing is effective not only via email and online, but for students, incredibly effective to meet them where they are. This is something I can and am eager to do as a Campus Brand Ambassador for your company

Ask Good Questions

- Build upon your research about the company
- Clarify duties and responsibilities
- Ask questions for you to assess if position and company is a good fit
- Avoid benefits questions

Close the Interview

- Reaffirm your interest, summarize strengths
- Ask about next steps in the interview process
- Ask for a business card
- Thank the employer

After the Interview

- Send a thank you note within 24 hours
  - Re-express appreciation
  - Re-affirm interest and your fit with the company and position
  - Mention any skills, qualities you forgot to share during the interview
- Reflect on the interview
  - Jot down questions asked to prepare for future interviews
  - Debrief with career counselor

Career Technologies

Big Interview

An online system that combines training and practice to help you improve your interview technique and build your confidence. Click here for a demo of Big Interview

http://career.uci.edu/big-interview

UCI Career Spots

Access CareerSpots to view quick, informative videos on a variety of topics

http://career.uci.edu/careerspots