

I. Purpose

- A. The purpose of the interview is to ensure compatibility between the candidate and the institution. The interviewer is seeking to discern if you are the type of individual they would like to have as a future co-worker and as a representative of their field. The interview also manifests social and communication skills.

II. Preparation

A. Learn about the institution

- 1. In preparing for an interview, you should learn as much as you can about that institution. This includes more than a survey of their web page. You can often learn additional valuable information through networking with friends, pharmacists and other professionals.

B. Anticipate questions

- 1. In addition to knowing about the interviewing institution, you should know yourself - your strengths, your weaknesses and how you have responded to them, your experiences, etc....
- 2. Review your response to commonly asked questions.
- 3. Be familiar with what you believe to be the top 10 issues in current events.

- C. Take advantage of going through a mock interview with Greg Nielsen in Career Services within 2 weeks of the interview. Interviewing is a skill, and the more you practice, the better you will perform.

III. The Interview

A. Committee

- 1. While the composite of individuals conducting the interview will vary from one university to another, your interview will most likely be by committee. Usually the committee will be made up of 3 to 4 members, including faculty, pharmacists, and students. When a member of that committee asks you a question, acknowledge the individual who asked the

question but address all members of the committee.

B. Question Types

1. Open ended: Tell me about yourself?
 - a. This is not an invitation to ramble. Before going into an interview, you should have a specific goal to convey certain things about yourself. An open ended question is an opportunity to present or reinforce those specific things you want the interviewer to know about you.
2. Closed: Why are you interested in becoming a pharmacist?
 - a. Be sure to answer the question, as direct as possible. Try to personalize your answer with information that sets you apart from other applicants. Share a personal experience.
3. Behavioral: What would you do if
 - a. While presenting a solid theoretical plan is good, it is much better if you can share how you have previously behaved in a similar situation.
4. Current Events - Be familiar with top 10 issues.
5. What is your greatest weakness?
 - a. Be genuine in your answer. Try to stay positive by stating how you are working on it or how it can also be a strength. Such as sometimes it takes you longer to understand principles, and this has helped you become a hard worker.
 - b. Careful to not pick a weakness that would impair your ability to function in their professional program or afterwards. Such as saying something like I have a bad temper or that you have difficulty getting along with people. Do not sow seeds you don't want sown.
6. Be careful not to be too narrow minded.

IV. Dress

- A. Assume the interviewing body is much more conservative than you are.

B. For women:

1. If you have long hair, pull it up. Avoid wearing excessive make up or perfume. Wear a business suit, usually with a skirt rather than pants.

C. For men:

1. Where a conservative suit with a white shirt.

V. Conclusion

- A. Record names of those you met during the interview and questions that were asked. Send thank you notes out immediately afterward.
- B. The more you practice interview with friends and family, the better you will perform.