

Job Interviews for Engineers Student Handout

Job Interview Questions - *From Appendix of Louw K.J., Derwig T. M. and Abbott M.L. (2010), p.758.*

1. Why did you choose engineering as a career?
2. Why are you interested in this position?
3. Tell us a little about yourself.
4. When creating a design to solve an engineering problem what are the main criteria to consider?
5. What are your greatest personal strengths?
6. Describe a time when you worked on a project as part of a team.
7. How do you determine or evaluate success on a task?
8. What are your weaknesses?
9. Provide an example from your past that demonstrates the contribution you could make to our firm.
10. What accomplishment has given you the most satisfaction, and why?
11. Describe a major problem you have encountered at work and how you handled it.
12. Cite another situation from your past that required you to respond to pressure. How did you deal with it?
13. Where do you see yourself five years from now?
14. What level of salary are you expecting?
15. Why should I hire you?
16. Do you have any questions for us?



Desirable interview behavior gathered from real interviewers and employers from the Louw, Derwig and Abbott study (2010):

Sociopragmatic knowledge

1. Introductions
 - a. Introduces oneself appropriately (*says name clearly, uses polite greeting*)
 - b. Shakes hands
 - c. Waits for an invitation to sit down
 - d. Appears relaxed and natural
2. Small talk (*appropriate topics, not too personal, not too much*)
3. First question: "Why did you choose this field?"
 - a. Personalized
 - b. Includes information expected: Personal motivation/interest for field
4. Appears enthusiastic (*smiling, excited for the job*)
5. Presents themselves as professional (*dresses well, polite manners*)
6. Communicates carefully (*thinks before speaking, chooses words/statements wisely*)
7. Rapport and solidarity (*relatable and trustworthy seeming, friendly but genuine*)
8. Participates at the set tempo (*keeps up with pace of interviewer*)
9. Body language and nonverbal communication. (*handshakes, nods, not fidgeting, sit up straight*)
10. Appropriate ending (*thank for their time, accept cues for ending interview*)

Pragmalinguistic knowledge

1. Sequence markers and transitions
2. Feedback cues signaling: interest, agreement, disagreement, confusion.

