

Sample General Graduate School Interview Questions

Personal

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What are your plans if you're not accepted? Plan B?
- What do you believe your greatest challenge will be if you are accepted into this program?
- Describe one or two accomplishments.
- How do you motivate yourself?
- What can you offer this program that other applicants cannot?
- What would you change about yourself and why?
- What would you say is an area in which you need improvement?
- Do you have any hobbies or outside interests?
- What activities do you enjoy most outside of the classroom?

Experience

- Tell me about your last experience (internship, job, volunteer, clinical, practicum, etc.). What was a challenge? What was a contribution you made?
- Why have you chosen to apply to our program?
- Why did you decide to become a (i.e. physical therapist)?
- What do you know about our school/program?
- What is your philosophy regarding this profession?
- Explain a situation in which you had a conflict and how you resolved it. What did you learn?
- What skills and experiences do you feel have prepared you for admission to this program?
- Describe a group project you've worked on and what role you took.
- How will you be able to make a contribution to this field?
- How will you manage your time if you are accepted into the program?

Goals

- What are your short-term and long-term goals?
- Why do you want a graduate degree in _____?
- How do you see this program fitting into your career goals?
- Tell me about a goal you have set for yourself and how you have achieved it or intend to achieve it.

General

- What questions do you have for us?
- What concerns you about the (i.e. counseling) profession?
- Why would you be an asset to our department? How would you be able to contribute to our program?
- What has motivated you to pursue this academic field? What skills or abilities do you hope to strengthen through our program?
- What challenges do you think you might face in the graduate program?
- Tell me about any volunteer experiences in which you have participated.

Education

- In what ways do you think your previous experience and coursework have prepared you for succeeding in our program?
- What courses have you enjoyed the most? The least?
- How would your professors describe you?
- Describe a situation in which you have worked under pressure or met deadlines.
- Why did you major in _____?
- Why did you choose to attend _____ College/University?
- When did you choose to enter this occupational field and why?
- How did you make the decision to apply to our program? What other programs did you consider?
- How has your undergraduate background prepared you for our program?
- What courses have been most difficult for you?
- What satisfaction have you gained from your studies?
- Tell me about the research project you completed with Professor _____?
- How many programs have you applied to besides our institution/program?
- What will you do if you are not accepted into our program?
- What extracurricular activity has been most satisfying to you?
- Do you feel your academic record accurately reflects your abilities and potential?
- Do you feel you have worked to your full potential?
- How would you rate yourself in the following areas?
 - Reading and Comprehension
 - Analytical Skills
 - Communication – oral and written, listening
- What didn't you like about your college/university?
- Tell me about a professor or supervisor that you didn't like and why.
- Why should we consider you for our program instead of several other equally qualified candidates?
- What is the most significant contribution you have made to your school?