

## Interview Practice

They are looking for:

1. Your answer
2. How well you can organize your thinking
3. How well you express yourself

### **Pre-Interview:**

- Do your research- look up professors' research interests (or company's goals, etc.)
- Practice interviewing; know what your answers to common questions might be
- Get sleep!
- Arrive early
- Bring a copy of your resume (non grad school)
- Dress professionally!

### **Tips:**

- Don't sell yourself short, but don't brag
- What makes you unique?
- Even if you feel comfortable during the interview, make sure you are still speaking and behaving professionally
- Don't discuss negative information

### **Interview Q's:**

- Tell me about yourself
- What is your greatest strength?
- What is your greatest weakness?
- Describe your greatest accomplishment
- What are your research interests/ideas?
  - Design a study
- What relevant experiences have you had?
- How would you describe yourself?
- Tell me about a time you assumed a leadership role?
- Why are you the best person for the job?
- Describe a difficult situation you faced and how you overcame it?
- What are your long-term career goals?
- Describe a time when you handled a situation creatively?
- Why did you choose to apply to our program?

### **You should ask (advisors):**

- How often do you meet with their students?
- Where do you see your research going in the next ten years?
- Questions about their research (have they looked at ...x?)
- Are there many opportunities for collaboration with other faculty?
- Where are recent alumni employed? What do most graduates do after graduation?

- For how long are you guaranteed funding?
- Do most students publish an article/conduct research prior to graduation? If so, how many?
- What types of research projects are current students pursuing?

**You should ask (grad students):**

- Is it possible to live on the stipend?
- How does X University handle summer funding?
- What do you do for fun?
- What is there to do for fun in X City?
- Do you spend much time with the other graduate students?

**Post Interview:**

- Send thank you notes to the graduate students and professor you interviewed with