

Successful Graduate School Interview Tips

Presented by: Erika Soroka and John MacIlsac

Congratulations



- If you're asked to interview, congratulate yourself!
 - Only applicants who have made it to the short list of finalists are asked to interview, as interviews are time consuming and costly.



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Purpose of the Interview



- To permit members of the department to get a "look" at you
 - Very often, individuals who look great on paper are not so in real life

MICHAEL D'GUGLIEMO		
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EXPERIENCE		
LOUIS CANNON CREATIVES – Pittsburgh, PA	2011 – Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Executive Creative Director Collaborates with clients in order to efficiently develop and produce video and print advertising Published work has included operational videos for Hilti for University of Greater Pittsburgh, East Dad Fashion Magazine, The Touchdown and the Women's Business Network of Southwestern PA
THE ACADEMY SCHOLAR – Pittsburgh, PA	2010 – 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concepted and produced in-depth content reports for juvenile delinquent students committed to The Academy Produced large numbers of monthly updates under a strict deadline situation
ANIMA VFX – Pittsburgh, PA	Spring 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual Effects Director Developed visual effects skills while assisting with the day-to-day operations of the studio Edited to national "Highland Clear" advertisement spot for Motion Advertising Served as production assistant for a South Brothers Agency commercial shoot
MULLEN ADVERTISING – Pittsburgh, PA	Summer 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Development Intern Contributed to the New Business department's daily operations by conducting research on prospective clients and by providing agency case studies Edited and edited a two-minute video to complement a PA Department of Travel and Tourism RFP response
WUPFLY 20 – Jeannette, PA	2007 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer Served as head writer, director and editor of a weekly, student-run news and entertainment show Managed filming, editing, news assignments, budgets and overall studio upkeep
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH at JEANETTE – Jeannette, PA	2007 – 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and Recreation Intern Shot and edited a seven-minute wedding team highlight video, one hour in length Became proficient in videography, as well as Final Cut Studio and Adobe Creative Suite applications
THE BEAULIEU-SCHMIDT – University, PA	2006 – 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications Intern Wrote features on local happenings for "The Weekend States," a weekly entertainment and news magazine Published articles included more than 10 local cover stories
EDUCATION		
PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY – Pittsburgh, PA	2009 – 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH at JEANETTE – Jeannette, PA	2005 – 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.A. in Journalism, Minor in Creative Writing



What the Interviewers look for



- Maturity
- Interpersonal Skills
- Interest
- Motivation
- Other Unique qualities the interviewers deems ideal
 - Stress management, self- efficacy, time management, etc..

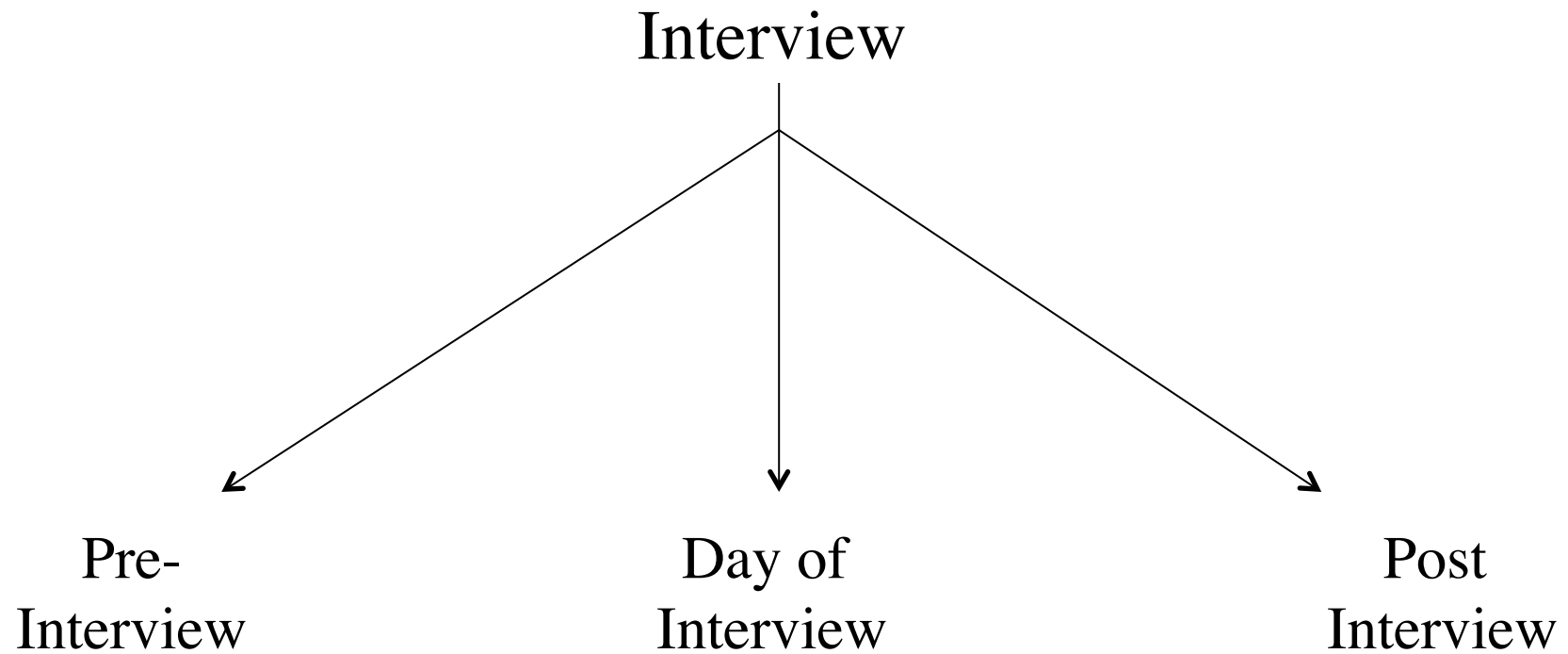


How to Prepare



- Review your OWN application
 - Goals
 - Interests
 - Qualifications
 - Experience
- Most people have forgotten the content of their CV.
- Learn about the program
 - Learn about the professor's research by reading one of his papers for instance

The Three Stages of the Interview Process



Pre - Interview



- Make a list of your own strengths, achievements, and recognitions received.
- Know who your audience will be.
- Conduct research on the school, graduate program, and faculty before the interview.
- Be familiar with common interview questions.
 - Ask a friend or family member to ask you these questions and practice answering them

Day of Interview



- Arrive early (at least 15 minutes early).
- Dress appropriately – Look neat and professional. (No jeans and/or shorts, etc.).
- Bring copies of your resume (or CV).
- Remember to use body language to convey your interest.
- Don't fold your arms.
 - Lean forward (slightly) to indicate interest.



<http://www.greenbuildinglawupdate.com/uploads/image/nervous%20guy%281%29.jpg>, January 10, 2013

Day of Interview Cont'



- Discuss your goals (career and graduate school goals).
- Discuss flaws that exist on your academic record (without making excuses).
- Be consistent in your answers. Also make sure your answers are consistent with your application.
- Make sure to thank the interviewer for his time

Post Interview



- Relax.
- Remember to send a thank-you note/letter or email after the interview.
- Stay Optimistic.
- Use each interview experience to prepare for future interviews.

Interview No-No



Don't come
unprepared.

Don't become emotional.

Don't lie or exaggerate about
your accomplishments.

Don't try to be funny.

Don't be late.

Don't talk about controversial or
ethical issues (unless asked to).

Don't criticize yourself or other
individuals.

Common Interview Questions



Why did you choose this career?

Why did you choose to apply to our program?

If you're not accepted into graduate school, what are your plans?

In what ways have your previous experience prepared you for graduate study in our program?

Describe any research project you've worked on. What was the purpose of the project and what was your role in the project?

Common Interview Questions Cont'



- What are your career goals? How will this program help you achieve your goals?
- Describe one of your greatest accomplishment.
- What are your hobbies?

Case Scenario



Summary: The 4 P's of a Successful Interview



➤ Prepare:

- Know Yourself
- Know the organization
- Know your accomplishments

Summary: The 4 P's of a Successful Interview



➤ Practice:

- Practicing what you're going to say and how you're going to say it will help you communicate clearly and confidently

Summary: The 4 P's of a Successful Interview



➤ **P**articipate:

➤ How you present yourself in the interview—your appearance, your attitude, your body language—is vitally important

Summary: The 4 P's of a Successful Interview



➤ Be **P**ositive

- You may be able to decrease your anxiety by realizing that an interview is a meeting between two equally important parties with the goal of sharing information

Questions



Contact Us



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