Graduate School Mock Interview Sample Questions

Please tell me about yourself.

How did you go about selecting your major? School?

What factors influenced you to go to graduate school?

What characteristics and skills make you a good candidate for graduate studies?

We are looking at many other qualified candidates for this graduate program; what sets you apart from the other candidates?

Describe your past research experiences and how it will help you in graduate school.

What has been your favorite class? What class have you disliked the most? Why?

Talk about your greatest strength and greatest weakness.

Describe your past work or volunteer experiences and how it will help you in graduate school.

What challenges do you expect to face in graduate school and how do you plan on overcoming them?

Tell me about a mistake you've made and how did you try to fix it?

Tell me about the most challenging thing you've ever done.

What three words best describe you?

Tell me about a time when you worked with a classmate who was not doing their share of the work and how did you handle the situation.

Give me an example of a time where you have shown initiative, where you went above and beyond what was expected.

What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?

How well do you work under pressure?
Tell me about a situation in which you have had to adjust to changes over which you had no control. How did you handle it?

Talk about a time when you had to manage several tasks at the same time that will convince me that you are capable of multi-tasking.

How do you determine or evaluate success?

What do you do in your spare time?

Have you ever had difficulty with your professor or boss? How did you resolve the situation?

Tell me a time when you took the lead on a team. How did it go? (did you meet your project objective and how well did the team work together under your leadership)

Can you describe a time when your work was criticized? How did you handle it?

Tell me about a time when you had to give someone difficult feedback.

What's the most difficult decision you've made in the last two years and how did you come to that decision?

How would you go about establishing your credibility quickly with the team?

Give examples of ideas you've had or implemented.

What techniques and tools do you use to keep yourself organized?

Describe a situation where you had a conflict with another individual. How did you deal with it? What was the outcome? How did you feel about it?

Who has impacted you most in your career path and how?

What have you learned from mistakes you have made?

Tell me about a time when you helped resolve a dispute between others.

Tell me about the most fun you have had on the job.

What are you passionate about?

Give an example of when the team you worked with worked well together, and one where your team didn’t work well together.

Describe a time when your workload was heavy and how you handled it.
Some sample questions that are program specific:

Why are you interested in our program?

Which professor do you wish to work with?

What do you hope to gain from our graduate program?

How do you see our program fitting into your career goals?

Are there any questions you would like to ask?