



The STEM Academy at Showalter

"Unlocking Young Minds for the Future"

COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

Before Your Interview

- **Know the basics.** Learn as much about the school as possible beforehand. Review the school's brochures and Web site.
- **Review your application materials (if you have already applied).** The interviewers may use your application materials to start a conversation with you. Review your application essay so it's fresh in your mind when you interview.
- **Practice some generic questions.** There are a few basic questions you can probably count on hearing: Why do you want to go to this college? What do you expect to gain from the college experience? What do you plan to major in and why? You don't need to memorize your answers, but think through the issues ahead of time so you'll have some ideas to discuss.
- **Practice some specific questions.** You'll also want to prepare for questions that ask you to identify key topics or experiences that are important to you. Think in advance about some of your favorite experiences, activities or plans.
- **Prepare some questions to ask.** Show your interest in the school by asking specific questions, such as, How would you describe the student body? What are the most popular majors? What are the school's strengths? What are students' favorite traditions?
- **Make sure you know exactly where your interview is being held.** Call in advance and ask for directions if you're unsure, and schedule enough time to get there. Make sure you know if and where parking is available. Allow plenty of time to park and get to campus. Don't be late!

During Your Interview

- **Dress appropriately.** Choose a more conservative outfit; modest and non-distracting with a minimum of accessories, make-up, jewelry and perfume. Do not smoke or chew gum.
- **Plan to arrive several minutes early.** The extra time may come in handy if you encounter delays, and arriving early will let you take a few moments to relax and prepare yourself mentally.
- **Introduce yourself.** Greet the interviewers with a handshake, smile and positive attitude.
- **Remember that the interview is a conversation.** Your interviewer wants to know about you. Be yourself and be honest in your answers.
- **Provide more than a "yes" or "no" answer.** Keep your answers as conversational as possible. Try to find specifics that naturally back up your answers.
- **Be spontaneous.** Though you should practice answering some basic questions, answer honestly, naturally and spontaneously in the interview.
- **Be positive.** Highlight the good things from your academic past and put a positive "spin" on your background.

After Your Interview

- Send a thank-you note or thank-you email shortly after the interview. Showing interest and appreciation goes a long way.