

Interview Questions

Personal

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What do you do in your spare time? To relax?
3. Are you an introvert or an extrovert?
4. Are you a feminist?
5. Has anyone close to you had serious mental health problems?
6. Tell me about what personal troubles you have had?
7. Who is your favorite author?
8. What was a transformative experience in your life?
9. Are you in a relationship? What will happen with that when you come here?
10. What books are on your night table?
11. How would someone you are close to describe you?
12. What are your biggest pet peeves?

Professional

1. Tell us about your undergrad experience.
2. What areas other than psychology did you explore as an undergrad?
3. What were your favorite and least favorite classes in undergrad and why?
4. What topic came up in at least 3 of your courses during undergrad?
5. Do you have a background in fine arts?
6. What are you looking for in a mentor?
7. How did you become interested in psychology? How did you become interested in (specific interest area)? What drew you into the field of psychology?
8. What would you be doing if you were not in psychology?
9. What career path would you have chosen if not clinical psychology? "If you don't mind me asking, what other schools did you apply to?"
10. Why do you want to continue your education in Psychology?
11. What are your (personal) strengths and weaknesses? What have you done to deal with your shortcomings?
12. What are your goals after graduate school? In 5 years? 10 years? Give us a five year map after graduating from XXX.
13. What are your aspirations or goals for your future in this field?
14. What do you have to contribute to us? What can you bring to our program?
15. Why should we accept you over other equally qualified candidates?
16. Why did you choose this career path?
17. What are three qualities of a good psychologist?
18. What are three qualities of a good scientist/researcher?
19. What areas do you think you will excel in (in grad school) and what areas will need improvement?
20. What theory resonates the most with you?
21. What direction do you think the field should go in (ie. what issues should the field address)?
22. What skills do you bring to a group?
23. Describe your understanding of the scholar/practitioner model.
24. Is clinical psychology an art or a science and why?
25. What personal strengths and weaknesses have impacted your professional development?

Research

1. What are your research interests? How did you get interested in this topic?
2. What type of research would you like to do?

3. Did you do an undergraduate honors thesis? Tell me about it.
4. What is the clinical relevance of your research?
5. What does psychoanalytic orientation mean to you?
6. What is your favorite part of the research process?
7. What do you see as the importance of research for pure clinicians?
8. Tell me about the research you've been doing.
9. What one question would you want answered about psychology.
10. How do you understand the results of XXX study you were involved in?

Assessment

1. Tell me about an assessment instrument with which you feel competent.
2. Opinion of projective testing (e.g., Rorschach)
3. Opinion of objective testing (e.g., MMPI-2)
4. What further assessment training or experiences do you want/need?
5. What do you think of IQ tests shifting by 10 points in kids tested when they were between 5-7, and then later on?

Therapy

1. What do you think would be your greatest strength as a therapist?
2. What about clinical work do you enjoy most/least?
3. What is your theoretical orientation? What do you think of _____ approach?
4. What are the challenges you expect to face as a therapist?
5. What is your experience with individual/couples/family/group/inpatient/etc. treatment?
6. What are your clinical interest areas?
7. What kind of clinician do you see yourself being, if you were not doing research?
8. What do you think is necessary for a good therapist?
9. Can a psychologist be objective?
10. What will be the hardest part of dealing with people/clients?

Diversity

1. With what multicultural or diverse populations have you worked?
2. What are your strengths and weaknesses in working with minorities?
3. What population are you interested in working with?
4. What variables/issues are of concern to you in working with specific populations?
5. What reading/didactic experiences influence the way you think about diverse populations?
6. What experience do you have working with low-income populations?
7. How do you embrace diversity?
8. Name a time when diversity played a direct part in a situation you had to deal with? How did you handle it?

Recruiting/ Interest & Fit

1. Why are you interested in our program? Why are you applying to this particular program?
2. How do you see our program fitting with your career goals?
3. Why do you think you are a "fit" for our program? How does your related background fit in with your program?
4. How would your previous research experiences contribute to the work you would do here?
5. Which of your interest areas are (not) addressed by our program?
6. How would you fit with the work in our lab?
7. With which faculty member would you most like to work?
8. Would you identify yourself as a self-starter or would you say that you prefer to receive more guidance from your faculty mentor?

9. What are the advantages to you of this program?
10. What worries you about coming to this program?
11. What might you not get at this program that you want?
12. What are your feelings about coming to this state?
13. What do you think of the program now that you've heard more about it?
14. What do you expect to get here?
15. What are you looking for in a mentor?
16. How will you handle the stress of changing your professional identity to become a psychologist?
17. What do you look like when you're stressed and how do you deal with it?
18. How do you learn best?
19. Tell me about your interest in this area (geography)?
20. How do I handle negative feedback?

Other

1. What else would you like me to know about you that isn't apparent from your CV?
2. Tell us something about yourself that was not in your personal statement.
3. What is the #1 question you would like me to ask you?
4. What have you heard about XXX's interview?
5. What are some books and/or movies that have made an impact on you?
6. What book have you recently read that affected your clinical practice?
7. What book was pivotal in the shaping of your decision to go into psychology?
8. What psychology books that are not related to your job have you read recently?
9. Where else are you applying?
10. What theoretical approach would you use to handle "X" situation?

"Stress Questions"

1. Tell me about an instance when someone asked you to do something that you considered ethically or morally wrong? How did you respond?
2. Describe the biggest challenge you faced in the past year and how you handled it. OR Describe a challenging experience and how you overcame it.
3. Tell me about a work or school situation where you had to do creative problem solving.
4. Relate a recent situation in which you had to persuade someone to accept your idea or proposal.
5. Describe a project you would do if you had unlimited funds?
6. Write the thesis sentence to your dissertation.
7. Write the first sentence of your dissertation right now.
8. What is your personal theory to why suicide occurs?
9. Describe a time in your life when you learned something new about yourself.
10. Describe a time in your life that you regret something you did and wish you could take it back.
11. Who would you invite, alive or dead, to a dinner party?
12. Describe a life changing experience.
13. I was asked to describe a patient I have worked with and formulate a case conceptualization.
14. What is the best of human nature and what is the worst of human nature?
15. How do you define wisdom?
16. If you could have one super power, what would it be?
17. What do you think about parents of ADHD children getting divorced after seeking treatment?