Graduate School Interviews: Questions You May be Asked

About you
Tell me about yourself.
What are your strengths?
What areas do you feel you could develop or improve?
How do you handle difficult people/situations?
How do you deal with stress?
What has been your proudest personal accomplishment?
How would your professors describe you?

About the program
Why do you want to be a _______?
What do you plan to specialize in?
What are your research interests?
What will you do if you don't get in?
Why did you choose our school/institution/program?
What makes you different from all of our other applicants?
Why do you believe you would be successful in our program?
What do you think the biggest challenge of graduate school will be?
What other schools have you applied to?

About your past (or current) academic experiences
Why did you choose to go to Elon (or other undergraduate school)?
Why did you choose to major in _________?
Tell me more about your research.
What has been your most meaningful/shaping/influencing experience as a future [occupation]?
What activities have you chosen to be involved in to better prepare yourself for [graduate school]?
What have been your favorite/most difficult classes?
What has been your proudest moment in school so far?
If you were allowed one “do-over” for your undergraduate years, what would it be?

About your career goals and your future
Where do you see yourself ten years from now?
How will you define success in your future?
How would you most like to contribute to the field?
Who do you most admire in this field?

Personal questions
What was the last book you read (that wasn’t required in a class)?
What newspapers and magazines do you read?
How did you spend your summers while in undergraduate school?
What do you do in your free time?