

# Interview Questions You May Be Asked

Employers ask questions throughout the interview process to determine why they should hire a candidate for the position; therefore, the responses you provide assist the employer in making this decision. There is no way to determine the order or what types of questions an interviewee may be asked during an interview. It is up to the candidate to be prepared for all different types of questions.

Practicing your responses to questions ahead of time may allow you to anticipate what questions the employer might ask and give you the confidence to respond to the interviewer's questions in a thoughtful and articulate manner. Your answers should be concise and intentional, reflecting the personal characteristics and traits that make you the best candidate for the job. While you want to practice your answers you do not want them to sound like you are reading them verbatim from a script.

## **INTEREST IN POSITION**

- Why did you decide to interview with our firm/organization?
- What ties do you have to our area?
- What would you like to know about our firm/organization?
- Where else are you interviewing?
- What is your geographical preference?
- How do you think you can make a contribution to our practice or organization?
- In what particular area(s) of practice are you most interested?
- Do you have any outstanding job offers? If so, where?

## **SELF-EVALUATION**

- Tell me about yourself.
- If you couldn't be a lawyer, what would you be and why?
- How would you feel about representing an unpopular client?
- Do you consider yourself a team player?
- How would your friends describe you?
- How do you handle criticism?
- What aspects of a job do you consider most important?

## **LAW SCHOOL**

- Why did you decide to go to law school?
- Why did you choose to go to Elon University School of Law?
- Why do you want to be an attorney?
- Has law school been what you expected?
- What have been your favorite and least favorite things about law school?

- What activities are you involved in outside the classroom at Elon?
- What have you learned from participating on journals or in clinical programs?
- Why did you choose not to participate in law review or moot court?
- Do you think your grades are a good indicator of your abilities to practice law?
- How do you balance your academic obligations with other demands on your time?
- What was your most rewarding academic experience?

### **CAREER PATH & GOALS**

- Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?
- Why are you interested in practicing in (City) and our law firm in particular?
- What types of law are you interested in practicing?
- What qualifications or skills do you think will make you a successful attorney?
- What are your career goals?
- How do you define success?

### **SKILLS & STRENGTHS**

- What are some professional abilities should we know about?
- Are you a better public speaker or writer?
- How do you deal with unexpected events on the job?
- What's your experience with group projects (teamwork)?
- Are you fluent in any foreign languages?
- Tell me about your writing sample.

### **PAST WORK EXPERIENCE**

- Walk me through your resume; what are the highlights of your career to date?
- How have your prior positions helped prepare you for a legal career?
- Tell me about your (a particular job on your resume the interviewer picks). What were your duties? What did you learn? What did you like the best/ least about the job?
- How would your previous supervisor describe you?
- Describe the most interesting project that you worked on last summer.
- What would you say was the most important skill you learned at your previous job?
- Why are you leaving your job?
- What were your responsibilities?
- Tell me about a time when you went above and beyond the call of duty in a job.
- Tell me about a challenge you faced in one of your past jobs and how you overcame it.
- Have you ever had to deal with a difficult client or supervisor? How did you handle the situation?

## **WORK STYLE**

- What motivates you?
- How would you describe your work style?
- Are you a leader or a follower when asked to work as part of a team?
- Give me an example of a situation where you used good judgment and logic.
- How would you deal with a difficult team member?
- Describe your ideal boss.

## **PERSONAL**

- How do you keep aware of current events?
- What do you do for fun in your spare time?