



Sample Mock Interview Questions

College of Agricultural, Life, and Natural Science

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General Interview Questions for All Majors

- Tell me about a time you had to solve a complex problem during a lab, research project, or field study. What was the situation and how did you resolve it?
- Describe a group project where you had to work with classmates from different backgrounds or disciplines. How did you ensure collaboration and success?
- Share an experience where you had to learn a new technical skill (e.g., lab technique, software, equipment) quickly. How did you approach the learning process?
- Tell me about a time when your research or hypothesis didn't go as expected. What did you do, and what did you learn from the experience?
- Give an example of a time you had to communicate scientific or technical information to a non-expert audience. How did you ensure they understood?
- Describe a situation where you were responsible for managing your time across multiple responsibilities (classes, labs, work, etc.). How did you stay organized?
- Tell me about a time you took the lead on a team, in the lab, or during a class project. What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them? Share an experience where you had to collect or analyze data under pressure. How did you maintain accuracy and meet deadlines?
- Describe a time you received constructive criticism on your academic or professional work. How did you respond and grow from it?
- Give an example of how you contributed to a sustainability or environmental initiative on campus or in the community. What role did you play?



Interview Questions for Animal Bio-Health Science Majors

- What inspired you to pursue a degree in Animal Bio-Health Science?
- Describe a hands-on experience you've had working with animals. What role did you play, and what did you learn?
- How would you assess the health and well-being of livestock on a production farm?
- What role does animal nutrition play in overall animal performance and productivity?
- Can you explain the difference between animal welfare and animal rights? Why is this distinction important in the animal bio-health science field?
- Tell me about a time you worked on a team—either in a lab, on a farm, or during a project. What was your role, and how did the team collaborate?
- How do genetics and breeding programs influence livestock productivity and disease resistance?
- What challenges do you think the animal agriculture industry is currently facing, and how can animal science professionals help address them?
- How do you stay informed about new developments in animal science or veterinary medicine?
- What are your career goals, and how will your animal bio-health science degree help you achieve them?

Interview Questions for Biology Majors

- What inspired your interest in biology, and how has that shaped your goals in healthcare or research?
- Describe a lab experiment or research project you participated in. What was your role, and what skills did you develop?
- How do you ensure accuracy and safety when working with biological samples or hazardous materials in the lab?
- Have you ever encountered a situation where lab results didn't match your expectations? How did you handle it?
- How has your biology coursework prepared you to understand human health, disease, or treatment?
- Can you explain how a biology concept—like cellular respiration or DNA replication—applies to a real-world health issue?
- What experience do you have working with lab equipment (e.g., microscopes, centrifuges, PCR machines)? How comfortable are you with troubleshooting technical problems?
- How would you describe the role of biology in understanding public health challenges, like pandemics or antibiotic resistance?
- Describe a time you worked as part of a team in a lab or clinical setting. What did you contribute, and what did you learn?
- What area of biology or healthcare are you most interested in pursuing, and how do you plan to make a difference in that field?



Interview Questions for Environmental Science Majors

- What interests you most about studying environmental science?
- Why is it important to monitor both air and water quality in environmental work? Can you describe some basic indicators used for each?
- How have you learned about OSHA regulations, and why do you think they're important in environmental and industrial settings?
- What are some common sources of air or water pollution in industrial areas, and how might they be controlled or reduced?
- Have you studied any environmental incidents (like oil spills or chemical leaks)? What safety or regulatory lessons did you take from them?
- When working in the field or near industrial sites, how would you make sure proper safety procedures and protective equipment are followed?
- How would you explain the connection between environmental science and workplace safety to someone unfamiliar with the field?
- What tools or technologies have you used—or are you interested in using—to monitor air or water quality?
- Can you describe a time in class, lab, or a project where environmental safety or pollution control was a major focus?
- In your view, what role should environmental scientists play in helping industries meet safety and environmental standards like those from OSHA and the EPA?

Interview Questions for Family and Consumer Science Majors

- What inspired you to pursue a degree in Family and Consumer Sciences?
- How does FCS education contribute to community well-being and individual success?
- Describe a hands-on project or internship you've completed in your FCS program. What did you learn from it?
- Which area of FCS are you most passionate about (e.g., nutrition, child development, fashion, housing, etc.) and why?
- How would you adapt a financial literacy lesson for clients from diverse backgrounds?
- Tell me about a time you had to work with a team to solve a problem related to food, health, family, or consumer education. What was your role?
- In your opinion, what is one of the biggest challenges facing modern families, and how can FCS professionals address it?
- How would you design a nutrition program for a community with limited access to fresh food?
- If applying for a teaching or extension role: How would you keep students or community members engaged in learning about life skills like nutrition, budgeting, or parenting?
- Where do you see yourself in five years, and how does your FCS background prepare you for that path?



Interview Questions for Food Science Majors

- Can you explain the Maillard reaction and its significance in food processing?
- How does water activity affect food preservation and microbial growth?
- Describe a food product you developed or improved during your studies. What was your approach?
- Have you used any analytical instruments in your coursework or internships (e.g., HPLC, GC-MS, texture analyzer)? If so, which ones and for what purpose?
- What steps would you take to perform a sensory evaluation for a new product?
- How familiar are you with food safety standards like HACCP, FDA, or USDA regulations?
- What would you do if you identified a potential allergen contamination in a production line?
- Tell me about a time you worked in a team to solve a problem in a lab or project. What was your role and what was the outcome?
- Food technology evolves rapidly—how do you stay updated on new trends or innovations in the field?
- What aspect of food science are you most passionate about, and how do you see yourself making an impact in this field?

Interview Questions for Forestry Majors

- What inspired you to pursue a degree in Forestry, and what area of forestry interests you most (e.g., conservation, timber management, wildfire mitigation)?
- Describe a fieldwork experience or forestry project you've been involved in. What did you learn from it?
- How would you approach developing a sustainable forest management plan for a public or private landowner?
- Tell me about a time you had to work outdoors in challenging conditions. How did you stay safe and productive?
- How have you used tools or technology in forestry—such as GPS, GIS, or inventory software—in your coursework or internships?
- Describe a situation where you had to work as part of a team on a forestry-related task or research project. What role did you play?
- How do forest ecosystems contribute to climate change mitigation and biodiversity, and what role can foresters play in that process?
- What is your approach to balancing ecological health with the economic needs of timber harvesting or land use?
- Tell me about a time you had to adapt your approach to solve a problem in the field. What was the situation and how did you resolve it?
- What are your long-term career goals, and how do you see your forestry education supporting those goals?



Interview Questions for Plant and Soil Science Majors

- What led you to pursue a degree in Plant and Soil Science?
- Describe a research project or lab experiment you've conducted related to soil health or plant growth. What were the results?
- How do soil composition and structure impact crop production, and how would you improve poor soil conditions?
- What methods would you use to assess soil fertility in a field setting?
- How would you advise a farmer dealing with declining yields due to soil erosion or nutrient depletion?
- Can you explain the relationship between sustainable agriculture and soil conservation?
- How have you used technology (e.g., GIS, remote sensing, precision ag) in your coursework or field experience?
- What are some current issues in Plant and Soil Science that you find particularly interesting or important?
- Describe a time you worked in a team on a field study or group project. What was your role, and what did you learn?
- Where do you see yourself in the next five years, and how will your degree in Plant and Soil Science help you get there?

Interview Questions for Urban Planning Majors

- What inspired you to pursue a degree in urban planning?
- Follow-up: Are there any cities or urban projects that particularly influenced your decision?
- How do you define sustainable urban development, and why is it important?
- Tell me about a planning project or class assignment you've worked on. What was your role and what did you learn?
- What software tools or mapping technologies (e.g., GIS, AutoCAD, SketchUp) are you most comfortable using?
- How would you approach balancing economic development with community needs in a redevelopment project?
- What role do equity and social justice play in your view of urban planning?
- Imagine a city struggling with traffic congestion and housing shortages. What steps would you take to address both issues?
- How do you stay informed about current trends or challenges in urban planning?
- Can you explain the difference between zoning and land use planning, and give an example of when zoning might be a challenge?
- What do you hope to contribute to the field of urban planning in the next 5–10 years?