

VARIOUS QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE ASKED DURING INTERVIEWS

1. Why did you choose this program? What do you hope to get out of this program? What do you feel your role will be in each of the rotations? How do you feel about being an intern in a new program?
2. On a scale of 1-10, rate how appealing this program is to you. Explain why? What is unappealing and what would you change about our program.
3. What questions would you like to ask us about our program?
4. What do you expect out of dietetics? Why do you want to be a dietitian? Where do you see the future of dietetics? What is your concept of a dietitian? Define dietitian. What are the roles of a dietitian?
5. What activities are you presently involved in at the University? Looking at your field experiences, which one did you learn the most from? Explain.
6. Explain your previous work experiences. Of all the jobs you have held, which one did you like the best, and why?
7. What are your strong points? What are your weak points? (areas in need of improvement?) If you could be anyone else in the world other than yourself, who would you be and why?
8. What are your plans for the future? (short- and long-term goals?) What type of job do you want after the internship? What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
9. Why should we choose you over the other candidates? Describe yourself.
10. What would you like to say to persuade us? What unique qualities can you bring to this program?
11. What do you have to offer to the program? (After the applicant answered the question with a description of skills learned in school, work, and professional activities, the food service director told her that he thought she was a liability.)
12. How will you support yourself during the program?
13. Have you applied to other programs? If so, which ones? If you are offered a position at one of those programs and this one, which program would you accept? (Comment: This question is subtle because applicants are not "offered" positions.)
14. If married: How does your husband feel about your application to this internship program?
15. If you have children: Who will care for them while you are working?
16. If you do not have a car: What transportation will you use to visit auxiliary sites?
17. Do you speak Spanish? Japanese? Chinese? Armenian? English?
18. How do you handle failure? What have you learned from your failures? In an internship you will be faced with a lot of criticism. How do you plan to handle this?

19. While employed as a dietetic assistant, did you have any problems with the nursing staff? If so, how did you handle the situation? Did you get along with nurses?
20. Describe your computer skills? What other information technologies do you know? What is your opinion of computer technology and patients in the hospital?
21. Describe your role in community activities and your work with any low-income patients?
22. Have you ever been in a management position? Describe your position.
23. What is your management style? What are the challenges facing managers?
24. Have you ever been involved in a conflict in the kitchen? If so, how did you handle the situation?
25. If a patient complains of possible food poisoning from the hospital cafeteria, what would you do?
26. How would you deal with nutrition quackery or nonsense?
27. What is networking? How does it enhance your professional abilities?
28. How do you handle stress? What situations cause you stress? How do you plan to deal with the pressures of the DI? What do you think a normal day as an intern is like?
29. What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies/extracurricular activities? Describe the most interesting experience you have had with a food.
30. Do you read professional journals? If so, which ones and why?
31. How long do you plan to stay in dietetics before pursuing the food science field? Why do you want to pursue an internship when your ultimate goal is food science? How do you plan to utilize your RD in the food industry? (based on statements written in the personal statement) Having worked for company X (a diet program), what is your opinion of their philosophy and mission?
32. What was your biggest group accomplishment? Have you ever had any conflicts with people in a group project? What was the conflict? If so, how did you handle it? What would you do, if the group member still did not cooperate? What role would you play?
33. What is your biggest regret?
34. How do you educate others in your school environment? (question based on statements written in the personal statement)
35. If you were to do research, what would you do it on? If you had endless time and money, what would you research on and why? What kind of articles did you write for SDFSA?
36. What do you think of the phrase "it's not my job"? What do you think of people who work for money?
37. Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night because work is on your mind?
38. Are you a dependable/flexible person? Rate yourself on a scale of 1-10. Describe specific examples.

39. Do you consider yourself logical or emotional? Why? Give us 5 adjectives that describe
40. Describe someone who is a mentor in your life?
41. If you are having difficulties, how do you obtain help?
42. How do you feel about cleaning up someone else's "mess"?
43. When you are given orders, how do you decide which one to do first?
44. Do you work better alone, or with someone?
45. Do you ever predict someone's thoughts before they have finished speaking? Describe.
46. How do you feel about working more than 8 hours/day?
47. What is lifelong learning?
48. Even though a presentation of an academic/professional portfolio at the interview was not required, the applicant was asked at the interview to describe what would have been in the portfolio and why those items were selected. If we asked you to give a presentation right now, what topic would it be one and why?
49. Describe how you plan to prepare for the RD exam.
50. Is there a difference to you in working at a 375 bed hospital vs a 1000 bed hospital and if yes, then why?
51. Do you think an internship is important? Why? If ADA made it optional, would you still do an internship?
52. What do you think of herbs as a supplement?
53. How many grams of protein and calories are in a diabetic exchange of meat? Do you think RDs should have to memorize these kinds of values? Why?
54. Be prepared to answer "situation" questions! For example:
 - a. Would you question a doctor on a diet order? If yes, how would you do this?
 - b. What would you do if a patient is disagreeable and won't cooperate when you are doing a diet instruction?
 - c. What would you do when a diet technician won't check the trayline? Even after you have discussed the matter, what would you do if the individual still won't cooperate?
 - d. What would you do if an employee was chronically late to work?
 - e. If you found the low sodium soup tasted salty, what would you do? What if the cook said that is how it always is, then what would you do? What would you do about trayline? How would you handle the employee? How would you check on this problem in the future?

- f. During a nutrition screening, you learn that a patient has been taking megadoses of vitamins A and K. She states that they were prescribed by her doctor for treating back pain. The doctor was unable to explain why these vitamins were prescribed, but her back pain has recently decreased. What would you do? What if the patient simply misunderstood the doctor? If you spoke to the doctor, what would you say?
- g. If you were the foodservice manager and the dishwasher broke, what would you do? What do you remember about hand washing dishes from school?
- h. How would you motivate a male who is 6'3" and weighs 235# who is on a weight reduction diet of 1000 kcals?
- i. You may be asked to give a 2 min presentation on "How to Receive Fresh Produce in a Food Service Setting".

Please do not hesitate to share other questions (email them to Smith) you may have been asked, so they can be added to the above list. For your information, CSUN-DI interview questions are not included here.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is my understanding that The Career Center has resource materials (and guidance counselors) that can provide additional information concerning the development of interviewing skills. Utilize their services.

IMPORTANT: Please inform Dr. Koprowski by ***May 2002*** or before as to the outcome of your applications to specific programs. Submit a copy of any letter received from D&D Digital Systems or DI/AP4 directors concerning your application. As with all organizations, CSUN is interested in the number of students who apply for DI/AP4 programs each year, and whether or not applicants were accepted into a program.

How to Blow It--The Interview (from the LA Times)

What's most likely to create an unfavorable impression during an interview? The answers come from more than 300 businesses surveyed for the Northwestern Lindquist-Endicott Report.

Arrogance, cockiness.

Poor oral communication and presentation skills.

Lack of interest.

Lack of knowledge about the industry.

Early discussion or questions about salary or benefits

Being unprepared for an interview and making excuses.

Egotism or overconfidence.

Lateness or not showing up for the interview.

Poor eye contact.

Being abrasive, rude or demanding.

Dishonesty or fabricating answers in interview or resume.

Poor language usage, slang or poor grammar.

No career direction or not knowing oneself.

Shallow or inappropriate questions or answers.

Lack of experience, education, activities; or skills.

Lack of professional appearance.

Know-it-all attitude.

Inappropriate attire.

Unrealistic goals and career or job expectations.

Overly aggressive, hostile or manipulative behavior