



**Career Connection**  
**Younkin Success Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**( 614) 688-3898**

## **Commonly-Asked Interview Questions – Graduate School Interviews**

There are some graduate programs that will invite candidates for an interview as part of the selection process. If you are invited and you really want to attend this program, then be sure to accept this invitation and dress appropriately.

### **Prepare for this if it were a job interview. You will need to...**

- Be able to articulate how your goals and qualifications match what this program has to offer
- Convince them that you will be an asset to their department and program.

### **In general, they will be asking questions about...**

- YOU - your goals and strengths
- THE INSTITUTION AND PROGRAM - what appeals to you about it
- THE FACULTY - your awareness of what they are currently doing in the field

They will expect you to have questions as well. Your questions will demonstrate your interest in the program, your analytical and inquisitive mind and of course your personality and interpersonal skills. Here are some typical questions that are often asked. It is a good idea to formulate answers to these questions and then practice your responses out loud.

What are your career goals?

Why do you want a graduate degree in \_\_\_\_\_?

What are your strengths and weaknesses as a student?

What details of your life shaped you or influence your goals?

When did you originally become interested in the field and what have you learned about it and about yourself?

What personal characteristics do you possess that would enhance your prospects for success in the field or profession?

What skills do you have?

**(Over)**

Why might you be a stronger candidate for graduate school and more successful and effective in the profession or field than other applicants?

What are the more compelling reasons you can give for the admission committee to be interested in you?

Why would you be an asset to our department?

What kind of teaching or research experience have you had to date?

Why should we accept you into this program?

What makes you a good candidate?

What appeals to you about our program?

What other institutions have you applied to for admission?

Tell me about the research project you were involved in with Professor \_\_\_\_\_?

How do you handle stress?

How do you balance school and personal life?

**Here are some questions you might ask...**

What are the requirements for the master's degree, the Ph.D.?

What is the typical program of study?

What kind of teaching assistantships or research assistantships is available?

How long does it typically take someone to complete this program?

I've read articles written by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. To what extent are students involved in assisting them with these research projects?

How accessible is Professor \_\_\_\_\_ to the students?

When are comprehensive exams taken?

What are the requirements for the prospectus?

What subject matter is tested in the general examination?