Before the Interview

Objective: Ace the interview by doing your homework.

Employer Quotes on Interview Preparation*

- First, learn how to be a person of integrity. Without proper ethics and team engagement, one cannot succeed in engineering.
- Know your stuff. What you list on your resume, you will be asked about.
- When interviewing, it is important that you sell yourself. Prepare the night before, and make a list of your roles, contributions, and accomplishments.
- Review your engineering courses that relate to the position and, most of all, be yourself and show confidence.
- Be prepared to communicate your goals, both short-term and long-term. What would you like to get from your first job? Where would you like to be in five to seven years?
- Get plenty of sleep before your interview so you can think on your feet.
- Relax, be open-minded, and have fun. This is not only a chance for the employer to interview you, but also allows you the opportunity to find out more about the employer.
- Come prepared, show your interest, and ask questions.
- Practice and have prepared thoughts about questions such as tell me about yourself, what are your greatest strengths/weaknesses, why you chose your major, etc.
- Plan on attending the interview dressed for success with conservative business attire in mind. Get new interview shoes and pay attention to details because the interviewer will.
- Come prepared with previous research on the organization with which you are interviewing. This is easily obtained by visiting the employer’s Web site and visiting the latest press releases.

Interview Preparation Guidelines

- Research the position and the employer. Find connections between your personality/experiences and the job requirements/employer.
- Practice makes perfect! Study sample questions and practice answers.
- Have questions prepared that you want to ask the recruiter about the job, the organization, etc. Bring a padfolio to jot down notes that you may want to remember.
- Have a page of references prepared in case the interviewer requests one.
- Dress for success. If in doubt about what to wear, dress conservatively.
- Be certain of the time and place of the interview.
- Arrive early. Leave time for unforeseen delays.
- Have a breath mint before the interview.

Research! Research! Research!

*Recruiter data collected by WEP and EOE offices.