

Tell me about a time...

# When you rocked out an interview!

There's no need to fear behavioral interview questions (yeah, there's an actual name for these funky questions that catch the unwitting interviewee off-guard)!

Here's a list of some of the most commonly asked questions. Take the time to think out a thoughtful (and brief) reply to some (or all) of these and you will be ready to rock out any interview with confidence!



Want to practice? Make an appointment for a mock interview with the Career & Internship Office:  
[careers@aup.edu](mailto:careers@aup.edu) [internship@aup.edu](mailto:internship@aup.edu)

## Interviewing Tips:

- **Keep your answers short and to the point.** Behavioral interview questions can easily incite a lengthy response, but keep cool and stay focused.
- **Speak slowly, and articulate.** This is especially important when you are interviewing in a language that is your second (or third or fourth) language, and/or if it's the second language of the interviewer.
- **Keep your humble-bragging in check.** Behavioral interview questions sometimes ask that you speak about a negative aspect of yourself, or about a negative situation. While you should, of course, put a positive spin on your reply, the interviewer is also testing your ability (and willingness) to be humble and reflective about your own shortcomings.
- **Prepare questions in advance.** The interviewer will ask you at some point whether you have any questions. Your reply should be "Yes I do actually... [insert pre-prepared questions here]." This matters because it proves to the interviewer that you have taken the time to inform yourself about the company in advance. Show them that you're motivated, you can work independently, etc.
- **Be enthusiastic.** The goal: convince your interviewer that you really want to work for their company. Sit up straight, don't cross your arms, and don't cover your face with your hands.

# Interview Prep Questions



Brainstorm your answers to these questions or practice your replies with a mock interview at the ACE Center.

## Teamwork

Talk about a time when you had to work closely with someone whose personality was very different from yours.	
Give me an example of a time you faced a conflict while working on a team. How did you handle that?	
Describe a time when you struggled to build a relationship with someone important. How did you eventually overcome that?	
We all make mistakes we wish we could take back. Tell me about a time you wish you'd handled a situation differently with a colleague.	
Tell me about a time you needed to get information from someone who wasn't very responsive. What did you do?	

## Client-Facing Skills

Describe a time when it was especially important to make a good impression on a client. How did you go about doing so?	
Give me an example of a time when you did not meet a client's expectation. What happened, and how did you attempt to rectify the situation?	

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## Ability to Adapt

Tell me about a time you were under a lot of pressure. What was going on, and how did you get through it?	
Describe a time when your team or company was undergoing some change. How did that impact you, and how did you adapt?	
Tell me about the first job you've ever had. What did you do to learn the ropes?	
Give me an example of a time when you had to think on your feet in order to delicately extricate yourself from a difficult or awkward situation.	
Tell me about a time you failed. How did you deal with this situation?	

## Time Management Skills

Tell me about a time you had to be very strategic in order to meet all your top priorities.	
Describe a long-term project that you managed. How did you keep everything moving along in a timely manner?	
Sometimes it's just not possible to get everything on your to-do list done. Tell me about a time your responsibilities got a little overwhelming. What did you do?	

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Tell me about a time you set a goal for yourself. How did you go about ensuring that you would meet your objective?	
Give me an example of a time you managed numerous responsibilities. How did you handle that?	

## Communication Skills

Give me an example of a time when you were able to successfully persuade someone to see things your way at work.	
Describe a time when you were the resident technical expert. What did you do to make sure everyone was able to understand you?	
Tell me about a time when you had to rely on written communication to get your ideas across to your team.	
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<p>Give me an example of a time when you had to explain something fairly complex to a frustrated client. How did you handle this delicate situation?</p>	
<p>Tell me about a successful presentation you gave and why you think it was a hit.</p>	

## Motivation and Values

<p>Tell me about your proudest professional accomplishment.</p>	
<p>Describe a time when you saw some problem and took the initiative to correct it rather than waiting for someone else to do it.</p>	
<p>Tell me about a time when you worked under close supervision or extremely loose supervision. How did you handle that?</p>	
<p>Give me an example of a time you were able to be creative with your work. What was exciting or difficult about it?</p>	
<p>Tell me about a time you were dissatisfied in your work. What could have been done to make it better?</p>	

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