

The College Interview

Purpose: To help the college gather further information about your suitability as a candidate and to help you determine if this college is a good match.

Before the Interview: Evaluate yourself: identify your strengths, interests, weaknesses. Compose a list of questions about this college and its admissions process. Dress comfortably but appropriately.

At the Beginning: Shake hands with the interviewer; look the interviewer directly in the eye; know the interviewer's name-ask him or her to repeat it if you did not hear it the first time; introduce your parents, if they are with you, and then invite them to leave.

The Interview: An interview can last an hour and can be divided into six different parts:

1. **Personal Background:** Where you have grown up, your parent's occupation/interests, information about siblings and colleges attended by family members. The purpose is to put you at ease.
2. **Academic Background:** Information about Cicero Prep and your curriculum and any academic awards.
3. **Extracurricular:** What activities mean the most to you and why? Have you had any specific roles within an activity?
4. **Academic Interest:** What are you interested in studying and how have these interests developed? What are your future career goals?
5. **College Choice:** What are you looking for in a college/university? What expectations do you have in a school?
6. **Why This School:** What brings you to this particular school? How does this school fit into your criteria?

Questions to Expect:

- ❖ Tell me about your high school – what kind of environment does it have?
- ❖ What has been the most difficult course you have taken during high school?
- ❖ Is there a specific teacher or course that has really caught your interest? Can you explain why?
- ❖ What has been the most exciting academic project you done in high school? What has been your most significant academic accomplishment?
- ❖ Tell me what you have read outside of school lately.
- ❖ How would you use your talents at our university?
- ❖ What has been the most significant personal challenge you have ever faced?

- ❖ If I were to visit your school and talk with some of your friends, how would they describe you to me?
- ❖ What are your plans for after college?
- ❖ What specific questions can I help you with?

After the Interview: Thank the interviewer, shake hands, say good bye. Write a thank you note to the person who interviewed you.