

# OC CAREER SERVICES: INTERVIEW TIPS GUIDE

## **Introduction:**

Prepare for Interviews with Confidence

This comprehensive guide is designed to help you navigate the interview process with clarity and confidence. Whether you're a graduating senior, switching majors, or applying for internships, thoughtful preparation is key to standing out.

## **Why Prepare for Interviews?**

In today's competitive job market, preparation gives you an edge. Being well-prepared helps you:

- Show enthusiasm and genuine interest in the role and company
- Demonstrate your understanding of the job and industry
- Highlight your strengths, achievements, and unique value
- Build confidence and reduce interview-day anxiety

## **Mastering the STAR Method**

Most interviews include behavioral questions, which ask about your past actions and how you handle challenges. The STAR Method helps you answer these questions clearly and effectively:

- **S** – Situation: What was the context?
- **T** – Task: What was the challenge or responsibility?
- **A** – Action: What steps did you take?
- **R** – Result: What was the outcome?

### **Example STAR Response:**

**Question:** Tell me about a time you worked under a tight deadline.

**Answer:**

**S:** In my marketing class, our team was assigned a campaign due in five days.

**T:** I was responsible for coordinating the research and design elements.

**A:** I created a timeline, delegated tasks, and hosted nightly check-ins.

**R:** We completed it early and earned the top grade in the class.

## **Common Behavioral Interview Questions**

- Tell me about a time when you had to resolve a conflict within a team.
- Describe a situation where you had to meet a tight deadline.
- Share an example of a time when you had to adapt to change.
- Talk about a time you led a group or project.
- Describe how you handled a difficult decision.

## **Practice Makes Perfect: Try Our AI Mock Interview Platform**

Take your preparation to the next level with Practice Interview, OC's online AI-powered mock interview platform. This tool allows you to:

- Simulate real interview scenarios anytime, from anywhere
- Practice answering common and custom questions
- Get instant feedback on pacing, tone, and filler words
- Refine your answers using STAR method coaching
- Build your confidence through repetition and review

Access Practice Interview Here: <https://app.practiceinterviews.com/enter-email> (you must use your oc email for it to be free)

## **Tips for a Successful Interview**

- Research the company and understand their mission, values, and culture
- Dress professionally – when in doubt, go one level above the expected attire
- Arrive early, whether virtual or in-person
- Prepare thoughtful questions to ask the interviewer
- Send a thank-you email within 24 hours of the interview

Need more help? Book a one-on-one coaching session with Career Services. We're here to help you tell your story with confidence.

Contact: [careerservices@oc.edu](mailto:careerservices@oc.edu)

Instagram: [@occareerservices](https://www.instagram.com/occareerservices)