

. preparing for an interview .

Basic Tips

- As an IU Informatics or Computer Science student, you are unique! Sell it! Be ready to explain your degree, your course projects, your technology skills and your strengths.
- Arrive 10 minutes early for your interview (no earlier).
- Dress in your interview-best; aim for conservative and professional. Do your homework. Employers expect you to thoroughly research the company before you meet with them.
- Greet the employer with a firm handshake, make good eye contact, maintain good posture, and smile. Don't make excuses or evade questions.
- Be ready to answer common and specific interview questions, and to ask strong questions.
- Avoid negative comments about former employers or coworkers, and demonstrate that you aren't simply interested in the best dollar offer.

Organizing your Interview Answers: A Technique

The STAR Technique allows you to organize your interview answers effectively.

ST – Situation or Task – Describe a situation or task from an internship, part-time job or classroom project that will speak to the question at hand.

A – Action – Describe the action steps you took in that situation or task.

R – Result – What was accomplished because of your actions.

Possible Interview Questions

- Tell me about experiences and why you want this job.
- What is Informatics?
- What do you know about us?
- What technical skills do you have that fit our position?
- Tell us about your most relevant experience.
- What strengths do you offer?
- What is your greatest weakness?
- Where do you see yourself in five years?
- Describe your ideal supervisor.

Sample Questions to Ask Employers

The more specific the better! Ask about:

- Specific projects.
- Why this position is open now.
- Your possible supervisor and team environment.
- Some of the organization's short-term goals. Long-term goals.
- Integrating certain technology skills you have into the position.
- What challenges the organization is currently facing.
- What certain individuals like about working for the organization.
- What is the next step in the hiring process?