

CBM College Interview Guide

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND...

1. Keep the interview positive and enthusiastic. Use words like challenge and obstacle vs. bad and hate. (e.g., Math can be challenging vs. I hate math.)
2. Don't say anything negative about any teachers.
3. Have a good idea of what YOU want to discuss or communicate. What excites you? Why? Look for opportunities to discuss the key talking points that we have practiced with you.
4. Have a very well thought out, concise answer to "Why SCHOOL?"
5. Have a clear and concise story about how you became interested in SCHOOL.
6. Have a clear and concise answer about what you want to study and why. If you are undecided, be prepared to talk about your varied academic interests.
7. Have a clear and concise answer for which is your favorite extracurricular and why?
8. Look for opportunities to talk about collaboration. A lot of the work you do in high school is on your own. Show them that you can work well in a group.

POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS...

High School Experience

- How is the school year going so far?
- Tell me a little bit about your high school.
- When you leave your high school, what will they miss about you?
- If you were principal for a day, what would you change?
- Tell me about the courses you are taking in high school.
- Tell me about your favorite class(es). Why was it your favorite?
- Which class has been your least favorite? Why?
- Which classes have been the most difficult (or most challenging)?

Extracurricular Activities

- What extracurricular activities are you involved with?
- What do you like to do for fun (outside of the classroom)?
- When you're not in class, studying, or doing homework, what do you do with your time (organized activities or things for fun)?

POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (CONT'D)...

Extracurricular Activities (Cont'd)

- How did you get involved/started with ____ activity?
- What activity is the most meaningful to you, and what is just the most fun?
- What extracurricular activities do you hope to be involved with in college?

Specific Interest Questions

- Where is your favorite place you have ever been? Why? Where would you like to go (if money and time were no object)?
- Are you interested in study abroad? Where? Why?
- What books are you currently reading? Or what have you read recently for school? Can you recommend a good book?
- How did you become interested in _____ subject? Is there someone who influenced this interest? What interests you about SCHOOL's program?

College Specific

- How is the admissions process going for you?
- What type of environment are you looking for in a college?
- To which other colleges are you applying?
- How did you become interested in SCHOOL?
- What do you find most appealing about SCHOOL?
- Why do you think SCHOOL is the right fit for you?
- What are you looking forward to doing at SCHOOL?
- What are you planning to study in college? Why?
- What activities and/or classes have you taken related to that field?
- What do you need from your college experience in order to reach your goal with your studies and career?
- Have you spoken with any current or former students at SCHOOL?

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POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS...

About You

- If you had the opportunity to tell the Admissions Committee anything about yourself, what would it be?
- What would you want the Admissions Committee to know about you that may not come across on your application?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- What are you doing this summer? What did you do last summer?
- What is your dream job?

General

- What is the most important thing that you've learned from your parents? What have your parents learned from you?
- Tell me about a challenge that you have overcome.
- What problem or problems do you want to help solve?
- What do you think is the importance of community service?
- What would make you march on Capitol Hill?
- If a box showed up on your doorstep and anything you want could be in it, what would you want to find in the box?
- Where do you get your news? What do you read every day?
- What are your favorite websites/blogs? Favorite podcasts?
- What question(s) didn't I ask that you'd like to answer?

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK THE INTERVIEWER...

- What differentiates your school from all of the other schools?
- How would you describe a typical student who attends SCHOOL?
- What makes a student successful at SCHOOL?
- What are the characteristics that you look for in your students?
- What are the most popular clubs/organizations on campus?
- If you could change something about the college, what would it be?
- Describe the weekend life/social life at SCHOOL.
- What kinds of guest speakers/musicians/authors present at the college each year?
- Ask specific questions about your academic area of interest and SCHOOL's department.

INTERVIEW TIPS...

1. Do your research before you go. You should know the basic facts about the school and the department in which you want to study. Try to get your interviewer's name and Google her/him to see if you have any common background or interests.
2. Practice before you go. Your Mentor will do a mock interview with you. Practicing will help with nerves!
3. Dress "Business Casual." Dress to make a good impression, but be yourself.
4. Look your interviewer in the eye and introduce yourself with a firm handshake.
5. At the end of the interview, shake hands and thank the interviewer for her/his time.
6. Follow up with a Thank You email or written note. Write something meaningful, drawing from your conversation.
7. Be Yourself!