

mock interview: NURSING



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

PRACTICE SET #1

1. Tell me a little bit about yourself.
2. What unique characteristics do you feel make you well-suited for the profession of nursing?
3. Tell me about a time you weren't successful at something you were working on. What did you learn, and how did you move forward?
4. You are working on a group project with a friend in your major. They start not pulling their weight on the project and fail to show up to meetings. How would you approach this situation?
5. Tell me about something positive that you did recently. How do you feel like your strengths played into that situation?
6. How do you proceed when you need to solve a problem? Can you give an example?
7. Describe something you do to stay balanced during stressful times.
8. You will likely face challenges while working with a diverse population. Examples could include gender, race, culture, age, disability, or socioeconomic status. Tell us how you will work through these challenges.
9. What is something on your resume that is not directly related to healthcare? Through transferable skills, describe how it will help prepare you to be a nurse.

PRACTICE SET #2

1. Tell me something you have learned during your Mizzou experience so far.
2. Tell me what you know about the nursing program at Mizzou, and how you fit in.
3. Describe a life experience you've had in dealing with disappointment and how that experience affected you?
4. Tell me about a time you did something in the service of others. What did you get out of that experience?
5. Choose one of your talent themes from your CliftonStrengths assessment. How do you use this talent as a student?
6. Can you describe a time when you anticipated a problem in advance and took steps to stop it from becoming an issue?
7. What have you done to learn more about people who may come from a different background than you? How has it helped you grow as a person?
8. Consider your most unrelated experience to healthcare, whether that was volunteer work, involvement, or employment. Now envision yourself as a nurse. How will that experience be valuable?

SELF EVALUATION

1. My three biggest interview strengths are:
2. The three things I would have liked to change:
3. What were the hardest questions? What will my answer for them be next time?



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CHECKLIST

First Impression

- ☐ Appears prepared and confident
- ☐ Speaks positively and clearly
- ☐ Smiles ☺

Non-Verbal Communication

- ☐ Maintains enthusiasm and confidence
- ☐ Looks at webcam when answering
- ☐ Uses proper facial expressions

Verbal Communication

- ☐ Answers questions completely and concisely
- ☐ Uses STAR method to answer the questions
- ☐ Shows professional knowledge and attitude
- ☐ Avoids using filler words (e.g., “um”)
- ☐ Highlights the strengths with examples
- ☐ Explains steps taken to make improvement on weakness

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

1. **Big Interview** <https://missouri.biginterview.com>: Login with your university credentials, and then go to *Practice > Practice Interviews > Custom Sets > Nursing Applicant Practice Interview*. Record yourself answering questions and share the link with people who can provide feedback. You can also watch tutorial videos and learn about ways to best prepare and answer questions.
2. **Research the SSON program**: Use this knowledge to connect your answers to what you know about the program's faculty, academic content, and more.
3. **Get yourself ready**: Dress professionally and make a confident impression through your video interview. Avoid distracting accessories, busy patterned clothing and super bright colors. Make sure the background the viewer sees behind you on video is appropriate. Put your device close to eye level, and look at the webcam when speaking.
4. **Engage current nursing students**: Ask them about their experience in their programs and what the application process was like.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. **Nursing interviews are answering pre-recorded questions**: Answer questions concisely (2 minutes or less), but detailed. A genuine and articulate response will help you stand out.
2. **Be strengths focused**. When talking about your strengths, be specific and give details/examples. Don't just say you're a hard-worker or a good communicator. Give strong examples and specific instances of when your skill or talent was used in behavioral questions.
3. **Be a STAR**. Utilize the **STAR** (Situation Task Action Result) method to answer questions where you are asked to provide examples (i.e. Tell me about a time when you...)
4. **Be well rounded**. They want to know about the scope of your experience, not only in healthcare. Consider part time jobs, involvement, volunteer work, and more. Think of various ways you serve others and work on teams, and have gained transferable skills, no matter what experience you have.
5. **Know your why**. Have a compelling answer to why you are doing this. Stay away from “I've always wanted to be a nurse” or “I just want to help people.” They want something that is genuine and unique.

next steps:

Talk with a Career Specialist for one-on-one assistance: <https://career.missouri.edu/connect>
Check out more resources at <https://career.missouri.edu> > Resources tab