

Veterinary School

Interview Questions

Career & Internship Services
CCAPS • CDes • CFANS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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The Interview

Below you will find a list of sample questions you may be asked in a veterinary school entrance interview. The University of Minnesota School of Veterinary Medicine interview uses all behavior based questions. According to the program website, “The change reflects a growing trend in candidate evaluation and a response to changes in the veterinary profession, where success depends on the ability to handle more than just animal issues.” For more information on the interview process see the CVM explanation at <https://www.vetmed.umn.edu/education-training/dvm-program/prospective-students/how-apply/interview>. Visit our website for more help on interviewing at <https://www.careerhelp.umn.edu/interviewing>.

Sample Questions

Personal History and Goals

- How would you describe yourself, your background, and your future goals in three minutes or less?
- What past experiences have made you want to be a veterinarian?
- What skills are essential to be a successful veterinarian? Why are these skills necessary?
- What traits do you possess that make you qualified to be admitted into veterinary school?
- What are your plans if you are not accepted into this program?
- What do you think your biggest challenge will be in the veterinary program? Why?

Knowledge of the Field

- What responsibility do veterinarians have in assuring food safety?
- What is a key piece of legislation affecting the food animal industry today?
- What is the biggest challenge facing veterinary medicine right now? How would you overcome it?
- Describe a new method, procedure, or technology in veterinary medicine.
- What is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare? Why does this matter?

Personal Character and Skills

- How would you describe integrity?
- What ethical dilemmas may you encounter as a veterinarian? How would you handle them?
- How do you show others that you are genuinely listening to them?
- Do people trust you? Why?
- Who is your primary role model? What traits do they have that you would like to emulate?
- Why have you been successful this far into your academic career?
- How do you make decisions?

Sample Behavior Based Interview Questions

Tell me about a time when you...

handled a situation where you had to work with a difficult co-worker or customer
demonstrated your personal priorities
worked independently on a project
wanted to give up
made a split second decision
had to follow the guidance of a supervisor
adjusted to a teammate's working style or personality to achieve an objective
used empathy to help another person cope with a difficult experience
didn't know the right answer to a question
reached a positive compromise
changed your course of action mid-project
had to trust your own judgment
completed a tedious task
delegated responsibility to others
made a significant contribution to a team while utilizing your strengths
adapted completion of a project to better fit your personal strengths
had your values challenged
broke down a large goal into manageable tasks
took an action that put the needs of the team over your personal desires
modified the message you were sharing based on your audience
conformed to a policy with which you didn't agree
went above and beyond what was expected of you
used tact in addressing an issue
needed to be assertive to get your point across
put aside personal feelings to handle the task at hand
delivered bad news
passed up one activity to complete another
failed to complete all of your commitments on time
asked for advice on an important project
anticipated potential problems and developed preventative measures
made a decision that affected someone else more greatly than it affected you
set an achieved an aggressive goal
made a mistake at work and how you handled the situation

It is highly suggested that you conduct a practice interview to prepare for veterinary school interviews. Individual appointments and mock interviews can be scheduled at Career and Internship Services by call 612-624-2710.
