



*How to Ace Your*



*Interview*

# Preparation is your friend

- Practice Practice Practice!
- Plan what you will wear ahead of time
- Study the 7 areas you on which you will be assessed and find examples for each
- Practice what you will say at the “get acquainted” session

# Dress to Impress!



# Behavioral Interview Questions

**How you have behaved in the past** can predict how you behave in your new position

**Most popular form of interview question:**

- Tell us how you work under high stress situations?
- Describe a group project you have worked on?
- How have you demonstrated use of creativity in your work or school projects?
- Tell me about a problem you've faced in one of your labs and how you solved that problem?
- How have you had to pay close attention to detail to accomplish a task?

# Use the STAR Method

- **Situation/Task-** briefly describe your situation or task you were faced with
- **Action-** What action did you specifically take? Use 2-3 specific examples.
- **Result-** what was the positive outcome base on the action you took?

# Additional Questions

## What is your greatest Weakness?

Name the weakness and **how you are currently working on it.**

“Spelling is a weakness for me and it can get in the way when I am having to write a lot of papers or send important emails. I have learned to have a trusted person edit my important emails before I send them out. I have also found I do better editing big papers if I print them and edit the hard copy instead of editing it on a computer screen.”

## What are your Strengths?

Give an example of each Strength

“I’m Organized: I have a planner that I input all my homework assignments into and plan out what homework I’ll do each day of the week. I take “to Do” notes on my phone to track what new things come up that I need to take care of, and I put all of that onto a large calendar I have on my wall at home, so that everything is in one place. “

# Additional Questions

## Tell us about yourself

- Think of yourself professionally in the **past, present, future**
- Consider talking about how you discovered your passion for the field and how you chose your major
- What are you currently doing? (major projects, fun labs, relevant coursework)
- What are you wanting to do when you graduate? Is there a specific section of your field you have a major interest in?
- OR maybe you're excited to get work experience through MECOP/CECOP to help you figure out what you want to do after graduation!

# Additional Questions

Why do you want to be a part of the MECOP/CECOP program?

- Do NOT say “I want to make money”
- “To gain experience, and to find out what areas of my field excite me.” This shows a willingness to learn and aligns with the purpose of the MECOP/CECOP program

# Important things to consider

- They are looking for your fit within the companies, so let your excitement and personality show!
- Express your openness to learning various aspects of the field. Telling them you will only do ONE thing will hinder your placement outcome.
- Keep in mind the 7 areas they will be assessing as you practice and as you answer the questions at your interview
  1. Analytical Problem Solving
  2. Commitment to task
  3. Decision making and problem solving skills
  4. Communication Skills
  5. Creativity
  6. Interaction
  7. GPA

# Commit to the MECOP model

**During the interview, you need to get the point across that you are committed to:**

- ✓ going to *any* company
- ✓ working *any* type of job (even if the job is something you do not want to do; it is a “learning experience”)
- ✓ working two 6-month internships
- ✓ being an engineer when you graduate from college