



Practice Interviews

Boston College Career Center
38 Commonwealth Ave.



BC now uses InterviewStream, an online system where you can practice your interviewing skills.

How does InterviewStream work?

- From your own computer, OR from the designated computer at the Career Center, you select the interview questions you would like to answer from a set of pre-recorded questions. The interviewer then poses these questions, and you have two minutes to respond to each question. Your answers are recorded through your webcam and stored online for you to play back and review.

How do I access InterviewStream?

1. Log into your EagleLink account with your *BC username and password*, <https://bc-csm.symplicity.com/students/> then click on the *InterviewStream* link, then *Create Account*.
2. Click on *Conduct Interview*, then EITHER select *General Interview* OR *Customize Your Own Interview*, then follow the instructions on-screen.
3. **Before you practice** – we strongly recommend that you WATCH InterviewStream’s Interview Tips and Interview Webinar OR attend an Interview Workshop at the Career Center, <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/events.html>

What gear do I need?

- You will need a webcam attached to your computer; a microphone (built into your computer, in the webcam, or an external mike); and the most recent version of Flash Player – <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

What if I don’t have a webcam or microphone?

- You can use the equipment at the Career Center. To reserve a time slot at the Career Center, log into your InterviewStream account and click on *Schedule Interview*.

Can I get feedback on my InterviewStream practice interview?

- Yes, you have two options. You can either request feedback online when you finish recording, OR you can call the Career Center, 617-552-3430, to schedule a *one-hour time slot* with a career counselor to go over your recorded interview.

Can I do a practice interview with a career counselor?

- Yes, you can make an appointment to do a practice interview, live, with a career counselor or Peer Career Counselor. Call 617-552-3430.

How do I prepare for my practice interview?

- Log into your InterviewStream account and click on *Interview Tips* (video clips, 10 to 90 seconds each) and *Interview Webinar*.
- Attend an Interview Workshop at the Career Center – <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/events.html>
- *We recommend* - creating a list of the “successes” you’ve had in paid work, internships, volunteer work, academics and extracurricular activities. Try to pinpoint those times when you produced a positive result or were challenged by difficult circumstances. Think and write about how each situation reflects positively on the skills and qualities you want to convey to an employer.

How should I dress for my InterviewStream practice interview?

- *We recommend* business attire for all practice interviews, to best simulate the real interview experience.

A FEW INTERVIEW TIPS

What are employers really looking for?

Employers are trying to answer three or four main questions when they interview you. Do you have the skills and experience for this job? Are you motivated to do this job, for *this* organization? And how well will you fit in with your colleagues?

Reply Tips for Some Tough Interview Questions

"Tell me about yourself." A common opener, this broad question can "throw" many interviewees. It is in fact a "sell-me" invitation. Develop a brief summation of your background leading into your interest and desire to work for the organization as well as your qualifications for the position.

"Why should we hire you?" From your research, you should know the qualifications for the job. From your own self-analysis you will have gained insight into your strengths and accomplishments. Mention key functions of the job and discuss your skills in relation to these functions. Use experiences from previous jobs, internships, and activities as examples to support your answer.

"What are your long-range goals?" In your research determine what position you could reasonably reach in five years. Speak to others who have successfully advanced themselves in the organization or profession. Express your desire and capability to grow within the organization. While you may be unsure of your future plans, demonstrate your knowledge of potential career paths.

"What is your greatest weakness?" Everyone has weaknesses – but remember not to answer in a negative way. Turn your weakness into a positive (for example) "Because I tend to procrastinate, I have learned to work well under pressure and to always get work done on time."

"Tell me about your schooling." The key to this question is to keep your reply positive. Speak well of BC and any other schools you've attended. You are a product of your schools' educational programs. Be prepared to address questions about low grades, changes of major, favorite classes, etc.

MORE INFORMATION – visit our interview pages at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers/skills/interview.html>