

Veterinary School Interview Prep Book



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Preface



Watch this welcome video to get started!

Chapter 1

While all accredited veterinary schools will provide you with an excellent education, how they interview students can differ.

It's important to research each program's interview style and prepare accordingly.

This checklist will help organize your interview preparation to ensure you're feeling confident, prepared and head into each interview with no surprises.

Checklist for Vet School Individual Interviews

School Name: _____

Interview Style: _____

Check student doctor network for interview tips ☐

Contact school's admissions or pre-vet advisor for interview information ☐

Contact school to speak with a current student for school information and advice ☐

Questions for interviewers based on school research:

a. _____

b. _____

Click on worksheet to download

Chapter 2

The image displays three worksheets, each secured with yellow corner tabs. The first worksheet, titled 'Greatest Hits', features a list of ten numbered lines for writing. The second worksheet, titled 'Personality Tests', is divided into four quadrants for 'DOPE RESULTS:', 'MYERS-BRIGGS RES', 'ENNEAGRAM RESULTS:', and 'DISC RESULTS:', each with a placeholder for a screenshot. The third worksheet, titled 'SWOT Analysis', is divided into four quadrants for 'Strengths', 'Weaknesses', 'Opportunities', and 'Threats', each with a placeholder for a screenshot.

Click on each worksheet to download.

Knowing your story is key in preparing for your interview. Veterinary schools use the interview to determine if you're a good fit for their culture, are prepared to enter a rigorous professional program and are confident in who you are and your abilities. These worksheets, personality tests and time of reflection will help you know your strengths, opportunities for growth and greatest hits. Be sure to take the time to articulate what each test result means to you. How have you exhibited these tendencies in your life? Your greatest hits are the experiences or moments you want to make sure you express to the admissions committee (e.g. research assistant, technician experience, bilingual, etc). By applying your results and becoming introspective you'll be more prepared to market yourself to the committee.

Chapter 3

This infographic provides ten commonly asked interview questions. Take some time to develop your answers to best express your story. Do not be afraid to prepare and practice! There is a big difference between sounding “rehearsed” and sounding self-aware. Take the time to review each question and ask yourself, “Why are they asking this? What examples from my life are they looking for in this question?” Even in situational interviews (e.g. “What would you do if...?”), behavioral answers (e.g. “I’ve experienced this when...”) are the best way to show life and leadership experience.

Pro Tip: Some schools may ask how many other vet schools you’ve applied to or what is your “plan b” if you don’t get in this cycle. Make sure you are diplomatic, while honest in your answers and reveal only that with which you’re comfortable. They may also ask “creative” questions, like “If you were a vegetable, what vegetable would you be?” Have fun with these!

Common Interview Questions



Tell me about yourself?



Why do you want to be a vet?



Which vet experiences have prepared you for vet school?



Who are your role models?



How do you handle mental health and wellness?



Tell us about a time you made a mistake (or how do you handle conflict)?



What do you think is a big issue facing vet medicine?



What is your understanding of _____? (vet current event)



How do you plan to handle student debt?



Why do we want you in our next vet class?

Chapter 4

1.	3.	5.	7.	9.
2.	4.	6.	8.	10.

These worksheets are to answer the questions from chapter 3. Download each page and write out your answers to feel prepared and hone your story.

Discuss your greatest achievements, milestones and anything else you think the admissions committee should know (e.g. awards, internships, etc).

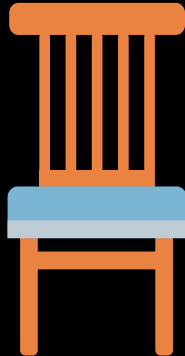
Be sure to emphasize your "greatest hits" in your responses and always try to bring your answers back to veterinary medicine.

Make sure each time you claim something, you have an example to back it up (e.g. "I am hardworking; I've worked 80+ hours a week.").

Chapter 5



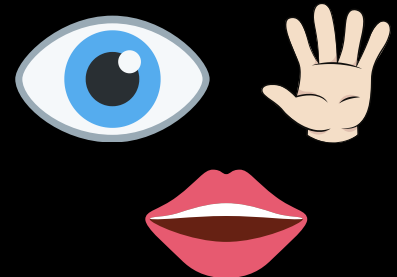
Choose the spot in the room that you plan on having your interview



Pick a stationary chair



Record your practice rounds on Zoom to watch later



Be aware of eye contact, voice/volume and how you move while speaking

Filming and critiquing your practice-runs is the best way to know how you present your voice, tone, pace and body language while marketing your story. Be sure to practice “eye contact,” controlling your movements, smiling, voice inflection and speed. Eye contact in Zoom means looking at your camera, while speaking and looking at the admissions committee while they speak.

Make sure to do a Google search for other public speaking resources, best-practices and opportunities for critique.

Chapter 6

Interview Practice Evaluation: Round 1		
PACE:	Too slow	Just right Too fast
EYE CONTACT:	Not enough	Just right Too intense
VOLUME:	Too quiet	Just right Too loud
HAND GESTURES:	Too stiff	Just right Too much
GENERAL POSTURE:	Insecure	Confident
FILLER WORDS USED (e.g. um, like, so etc.):		
Did I market myself well, sound like I knew my stuff and articulate my greatest hits? Not yet		

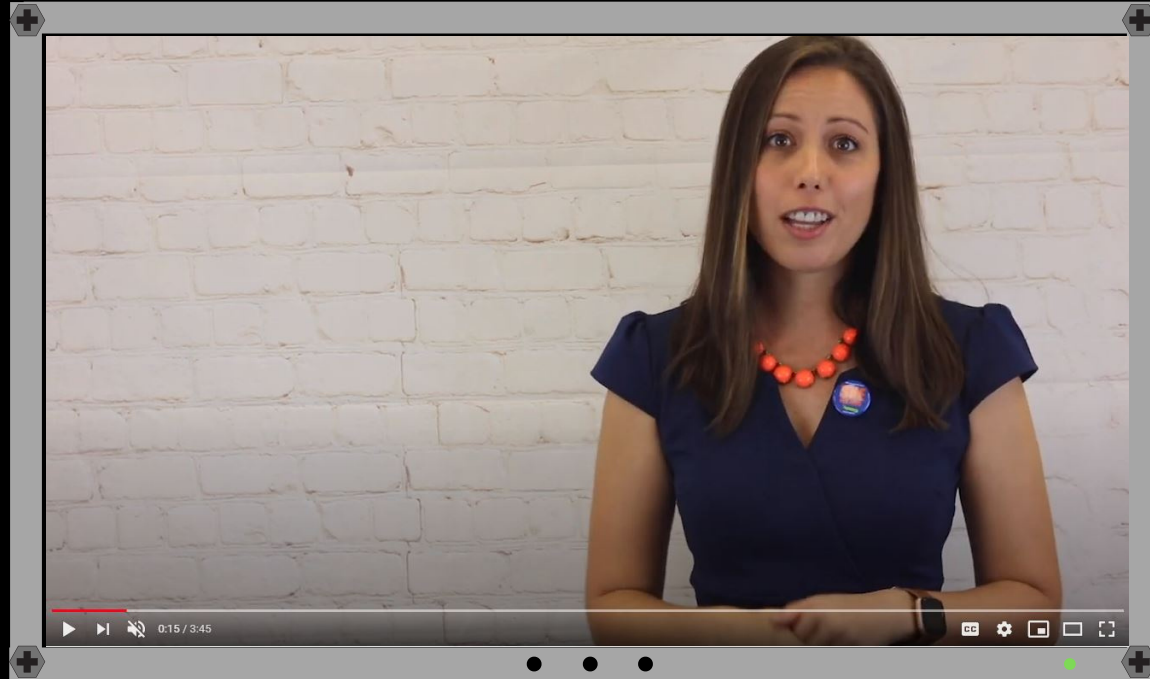
Interview Practice Evaluation: Round 2		
PACE:	Too slow	Just right Too fast
EYE CONTACT:	Not enough	Just right Too intense
VOLUME:	Too quiet	Just right Too loud
HAND GESTURES:	Too stiff	Just right Too much
GENERAL POSTURE:	Insecure	Confident
FILLER WORDS USED (e.g. um, like, so etc.):		
Did I market myself well, sound like I knew my stuff and articulate my greatest hits? Not yet		

Interview Practice Evaluation: Round 3		
PACE:	Too slow	Just right Too fast
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FILLER WORDS USED (e.g. um, like, so etc.):		
Did I market myself well, sound like I knew my stuff and articulate my greatest hits? Not yet		

Download and use the forms to evaluate your presentation skills

Now that you've recorded the answers to your interview questions, it's time to critique! While it can be difficult to watch ourselves on film, it is an invaluable exercise. Plus, you'll have recorded evidence of your progress!

Chapter 7



This video will help you avoid common mistakes. While it doesn't cover everything, it will give you a better idea of what to avoid.

Chapter 8



Many folks worry about their confidence. Whether it's too much or too little, you want to present the most likable version of yourself. There are many ways to feel confident in your interview. Watch this video for some tips!

Chapter 9

Mock interviews are an integral piece of interview success. Below you will find helpful starting points!

Mock Interview Tips:

1. Dress how you would for your interview.
This helps to receive feedback on your attire and helps you feel comfortable in your outfit.
2. Record the mock interview. Request permission from your interviewer.
3. Provide the interviewer with a set of practice questions ahead of time.
Encourage them to add their own throughout the practice.
4. Provide the interviewer with the critique form on page 9.
5. Send thank you notes to your interviewer after practice (and the real thing!)

Mock Interviewer Options:

Veterinarian

Academic advisor

Career counselor

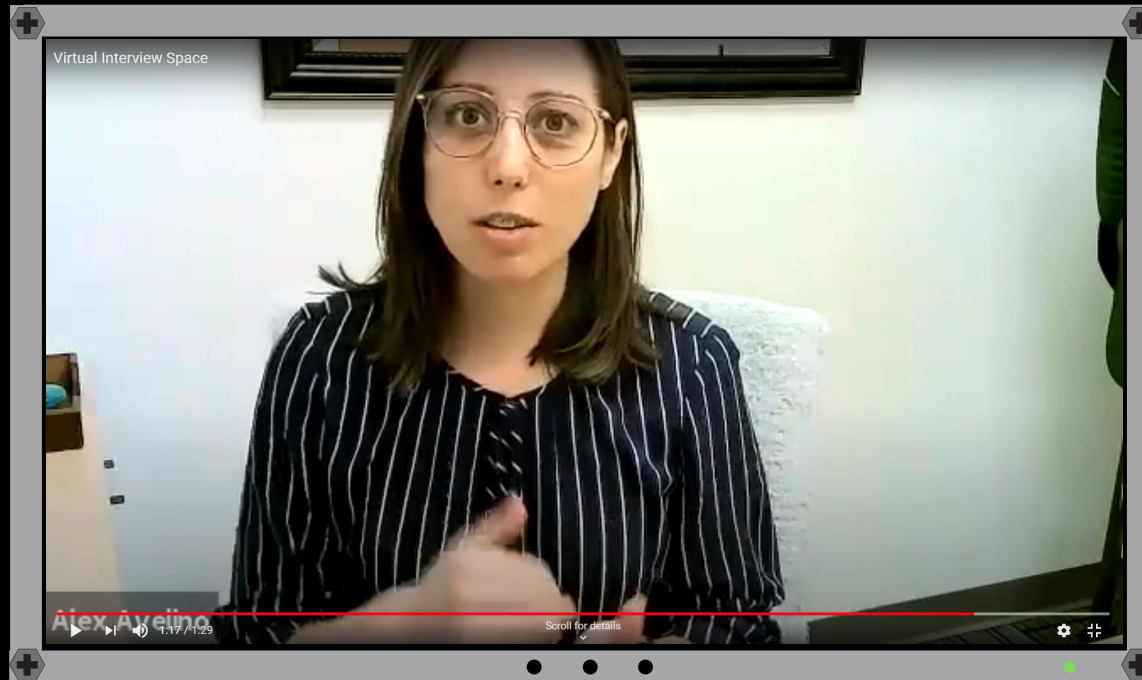
Employer

Friend/Family

How to identify who should interview you:

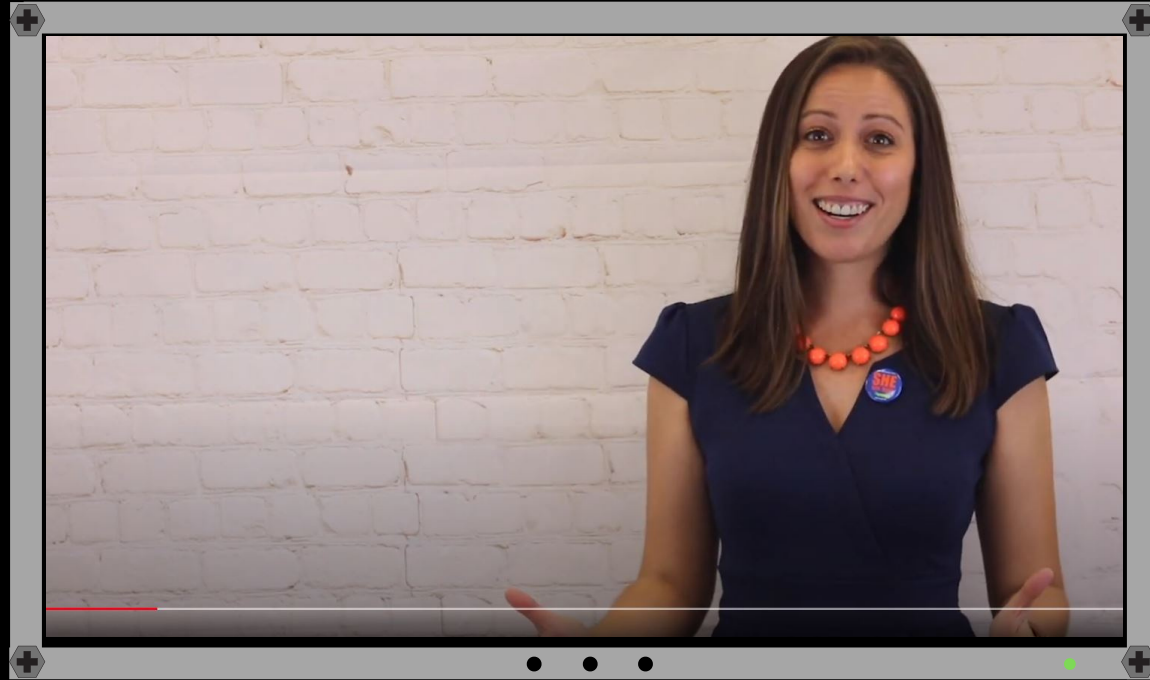
- ☐ They have experience interviewing others
- ☐ They have the time and energy to give you feedback
- ☐ They are not afraid to tell you the truth about how you present yourself

Chapter 10



Setting up your virtual interview space for success is more important than ever! Not only are more schools engaging in virtual interviews due to the current global climate, but schools may start encouraging these interviews to help with student travel costs and location considerations. Watch this video for tips on creating a professional virtual interview environment.

Afterword



Thank you for reading our eBook! You can find more information about UF's College of Veterinary Medicine [here](#)!
Best of luck with all of your interviews.