

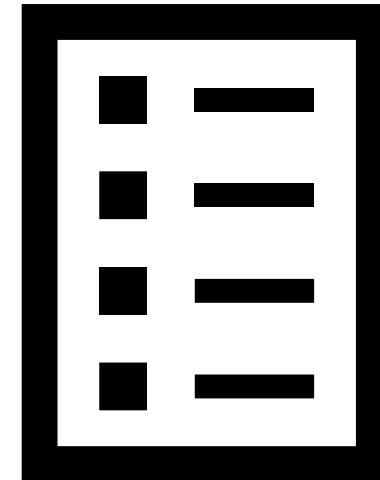
# Interview Workshop

Bruin Actuarial Society



# AGENDA

- 01 Different Types of Interviews
- 02 How To Prepare Before Your Interviews
- 03 Different Types of Interview Questions
- 04 How To Make a Lasting Impression



# Different Types of Interviews



# TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

## 1. Phone Interviews

Ranges from 15 min – 45 min

Typically, a phone call with a recruiter

DO	DON'T
Find a good location with good signal	Try not to have excessive background noise and distractions
Answer the phone with “Hello, this is [Your Name]”	Ramble (speaking for a few minutes straight is a bad idea)
Speak at a good pace and confidently	
Use your voice and intonation to convey your interests and passion	



# TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

## 2. Live-Video Interviews

Ranges from 45 min – 1 hour

Speaking with hiring manager or actuarial analyst

DO	DON'T
Check Zoom/MS/etc, video, and microphone quality beforehand	Log on 5 minutes before interview time
Dress professionally and greet the recruiter with a smile	Excessive background noises and distraction
Find a location with good lighting and background	Do not make typing or looking at online notes obvious
Maintain eye contact – look into the camera	



# TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

## 3. Recorded Interviews

Becomes more common since the pandemic

Takes around 20-45 minutes to complete

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Your webcam and microphone record your answers

Multiple attempts for each questions – you will also have time to read the questions and brainstorm before recording

Could be robotic and awkward at first

Refer to DO and DONTs for live-interviews



# TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

## 4. In-Person Interview

Could take place on Campus (Career Center) or on-site

Takes somewhere around 1 hour – 2 hours

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Anyone in the room could be your interviewer

Arrive and check in at least 15 minutes early

Dress to Impress!

Your interview starts the moment you enter the building

Maintain eye contact with EVERYONE in the room



# TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

## 5. Final Round Interviews

Usually a live-video interview with the team

30 min interviews with actuarial students or fellow/hiring manager

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

This is the FINAL step before a decision

It's all about "Office Fit"

Make sure to give consistent answers (interviewers will compare notes)

Take this time to learn about the team, communication, career paths, advice, etc.





# How to Prepare for Interviews



# DO YOUR RESEARCH!

- Research the company, position, and the interviewers
- Use Google, Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Glassdoor, and company's careers sites
- Know your resume inside and out: you should be able to discuss your significant academic/professional/leadership experiences



# WHAT TO BRING

- Laptop with webcam and headphones (virtual)
- Phone on the side and in silence mode
- Copy of your resume for reference
- Pen and paper to take notes
- Business professional attire



# Different Types of Interview Questions



# THE BASICS

- Tell me about yourself
- Why do you want to be an actuary?
- Why are you interested in this specific industry?
- Current events
- Personal experience
- Where do you see yourself in 5/10/20 years?
- How many exams do you have? Do you have a study plan?



# Practice Time!

## Q: Tell me about yourself.



# Practice Time!

Q: Why do you want to be  
an actuary?



# BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS

Interviewers use these questions to assess how you work, act, and perform in a professional setting

- How do you interact with difficult people?
- Describe a time when you took initiative
- Describe a time when you explain your findings to someone with no technical knowledge
- Describe a time when you had to resolve a conflict in a group setting





# STAR METHOD

1

## PREPARE

Listen carefully to the question and think of an instance. It is okay and encouraged to ask for time before answering.

2

## SITUATION

Describe a specific event or a situation that you were in – Who/what/when /where/etc.

3

## TASK

Explain the task you had to complete, highlighting any challenges.

4

## ACTION

Describe the actions you took to complete these tasks. These should be aligned with the job description.

5

## RESULT

End it off with the impact you made. Quantify your effort/result if possible.

# STAR EXAMPLE

## SITUATION:

During my internship at Instagram this summer

## TASK:

I was tasked with identifying users' behaviors

## ACTION:

Understanding this task, I implemented an in-app survey that analyzes click-through rates

## RESULT:

As a result, this survey was implemented as a new feature on Instagram, which effectively reduces 50% of the planning time



# RESUME-BASED AND INTERESTS

## Resume-related Questions:

- Walk me through your resume
- Tell me more about your internship
- What were the most important skills you gained?
- What was the biggest challenge at your previous job/internship?

## Interest-related Questions:

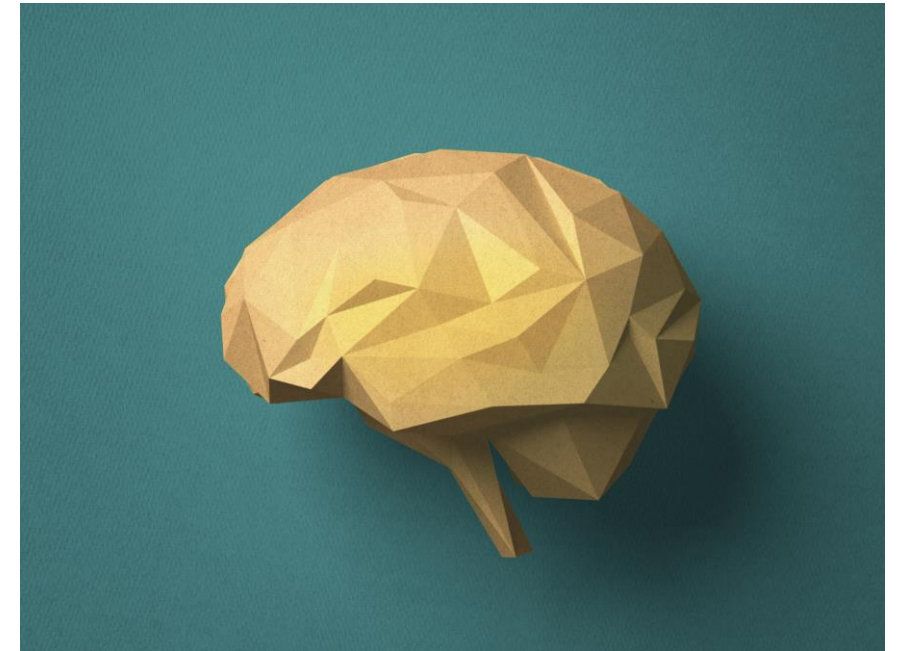
- Why XYZ company?
- Why P&C/Health/Life/Retirement?
- What do you hope to accomplish/learn?



# BRAIN-TEASER QUESTIONS

**These questions are being asked to assess how you think/your logic & reasoning**

- How many basketball could fit in a bus?
- How many lbs of fries does a McDonald sell a day?
- How many diapers are being used in a year?
- What degree do the minute hand and the hour hand make when the clock is 3:15 PM?



# TECHNICAL/CASE STUDY QUESTIONS

**These questions are more actuarial-related. You can look up “Actuarial Case Study Questions” for examples**

- Price a new phone insurance
- What factors would you take into account ...
- What are some factors that affect the frequency and severity of the auto insurance?
- What are some factors that you take into consideration when insuring a restaurant?
- Trend analysis by looking at graphs



# How To Make a Long-lasting Impression



# 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

## DURING YOUR INTERVIEW

- EYE CONTACT
- HEAD UP & BACK STRAIGHT
- AVOID FIDDLING WITH HAIR
- AVOID SHAKING YOUR LEGS

## ASK GOOD QUESTIONS

- WHAT PROJECTS WILL I BE WORKING ON?
- WHO WOULD I WORK WITH?
- WHAT IS THE COMMUNICATION LIKE?
- WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO HEAR BACK?

## POST - INTERVIEW

- THANK YOU FOR INTERVIEWER TIME
- ASK FOR EMAIL/LINKEDIN FOR THANK YOU EMAIL LATER
- FOLLOW UP WHEN DECISION IS DUE





# TAKEAWAYS SLIDE

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Do research on the company in advance
- Use the STAR method for answering questions
- Dress professionally and be confident

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Intro to Insurance Workshop 10/30
- Mentorship Mixer 11/2



[bruinactuaries@gmail.com](mailto:bruinactuaries@gmail.com)



[www.math.ucla.edu/actuary/](http://www.math.ucla.edu/actuary/)



@bruinactuaries







# Thank you

Any questions?