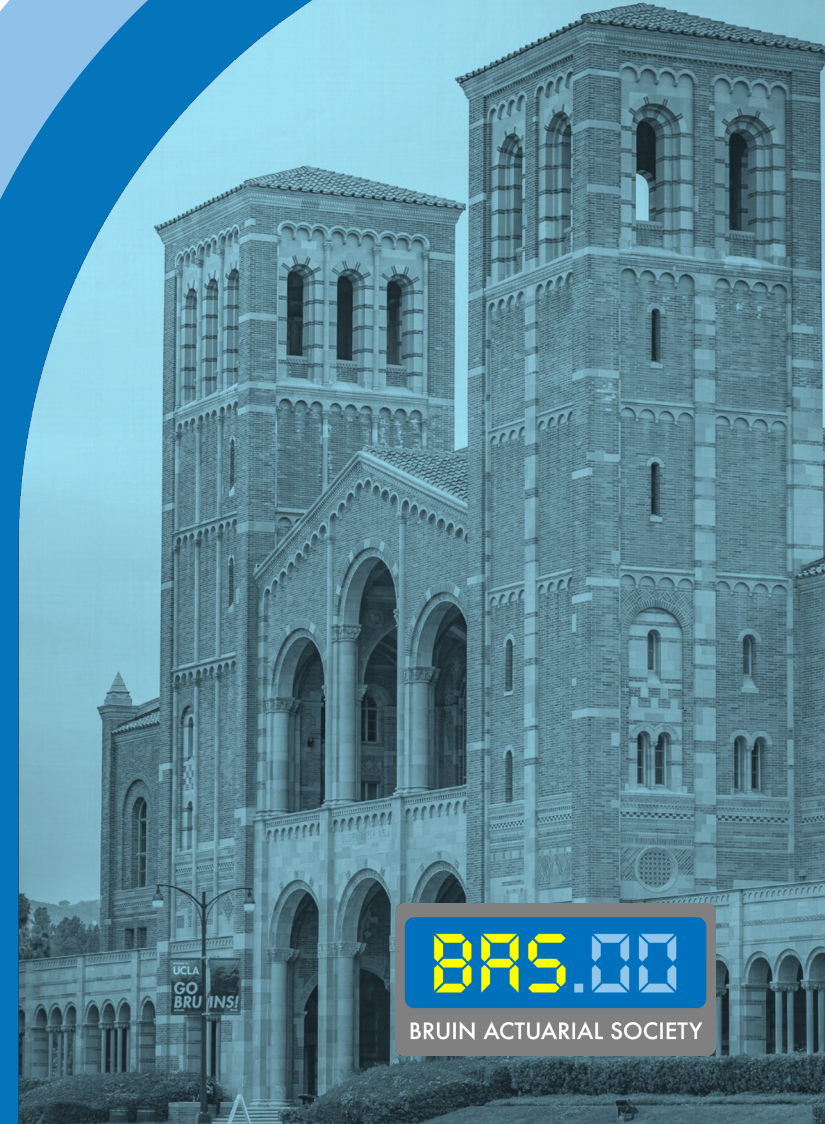


INTERVIEWING WORKSHOP

October 8, 2026



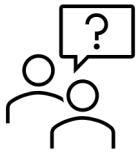
AGENDA



Types of Interviews



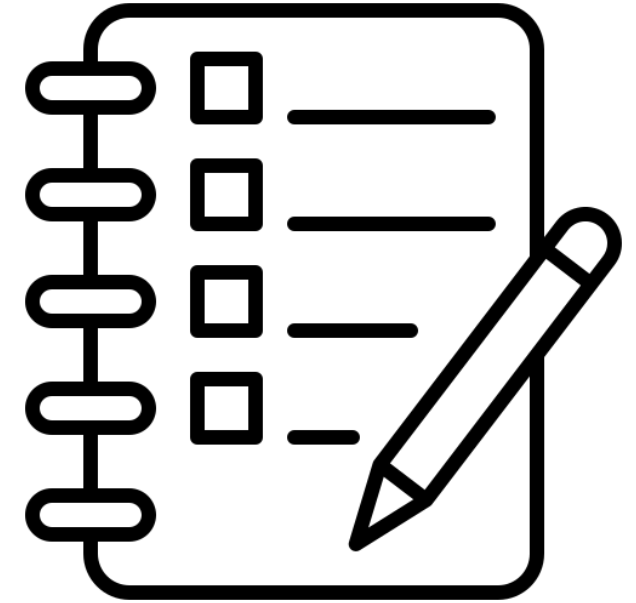
How to Prepare



Types of Questions

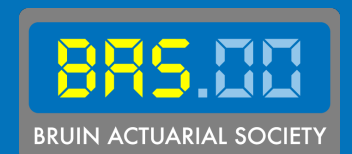


How to Make a Lasting Impression



01

TYPES OF INTERVIEWS



TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

Phone Interview

Recorded Interview

Online Interview

In-Person Interview



PHONE INTERVIEW

- **Typical length:** 15–30 minutes
- **Who it's with:** Most often a recruiter or that talent acquisition team; sometimes the hiring manager
- **When it happens:** Usually the first round of the interview process, serving as an initial screening to determine if you'll move forward to later stages
- **Purpose:**
 - Basic fit with the role and company
 - Communication skills and professionalism
 - High-level experience alignment and salary expectations
 - Logistics (work authorization, location, timeline)



PHONE INTERVIEW

DOs	DON'Ts
Find a quiet spot with strong signal.	Allow background noise or weak reception.
Answer professionally: "Hello, this is [Your Name]."	Start casually or sound unprepared.
Keep answers concise (60–90 seconds) using STAR.	Ramble or talk without a clear point.
Speak clearly at a steady pace; smile to warm your tone.	Speak too fast/slow, mumble, or sound monotone.
Confirm next steps and send a brief thank-you.	Hang up without clarity or skip follow-up.



RECORDED INTERVIEW

- **Typical length:** Usually 15–30 minutes, depending on the number of questions
- **Who it's with:** No live interviewer - you record responses on a video platform (like HireVue) that the recruiter or hiring team reviews later
- **When it happens:** Usually, the first or second round after an application or initial recruiter screen, before moving on to live interviews
- **Purpose:**
 - To assess communication, confidence, and how you present yourself on camera
 - To evaluate fit with the company's culture and values through behavioural or situational questions
 - To give every candidate a consistent, fair first impression opportunity



RECORDED INTERVIEW TIPS

- Test your webcam and microphone beforehand to ensure there is clear video and audio
- Focus on eye contact, tone, and enthusiasm, since body language is limited
 - Look at the camera, not the screen
- Take time to read and plan before recording your response
 - Sometimes you may get multiple attempts per question
- Treat it like a real conversation – it may feel awkward or robotic at first
- Common interview questions are often asked
 - Practice recording yourself answering questions



ONLINE INTERVIEW

- **Typical length:** Usually 45–60 minutes, depending on the number of interviewers and question depth - panel interviews may run longer (up to 90 minutes)
- **Who it's with:** Typically, with the hiring manager, actuarial analyst, or a panel via platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet
- **When it happens:** Usually, the second or third round of the process, after a phone or recorded interview, and before any final in-person meetings (if applicable)
- **Purpose:**
 - To assess your technical skills, problem-solving, and team fit more deeply
 - To evaluate how you communicate and engage in a professional, remote setting
 - To observe your confidence, collaboration style, and readiness



ONLINE INTERVIEW

DOs	DON'Ts
Test Zoom/Teams, camera, mic, and screen-share beforehand.	Start without testing or troubleshoot live.
Log in 5 minutes early and confirm your display name.	Arrive late or with an unprofessional username.
Dress professionally and greet with a smile and eye contact.	Open casually, skip the intro, or appear disengaged.
Choose a quiet, well-lit location with a clean background.	Allow background noise, clutter, or visual distractions.
Look into the camera, keep answers concise, and use brief notes off-screen.	Stare at yourself, type loudly, or make note-reading obvious.



IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

- **Typical length:** Usually 1–2 hours, though final-round or panel interviews may last half a day or include multiple sessions
- **Who it's with:** Typically, the hiring manager, team members, and sometimes senior leaders or HR representatives. You may also meet several interviewers back-to-back
- **When it happens:** Usually the final round of the hiring process, often the last step before a hiring decision or offer. Could take place on campus (Career Center) or on-site
- **Purpose:**
 - To evaluate your fit with the team and company culture in person
 - To assess your communication, professionalism, and interpersonal skills
 - To confirm your qualifications, problem-solving ability, and enthusiasm for the role
 - To give you a chance to ask questions about the team



IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

Tip	Why It Matters
Arrive and check in 15 minutes early.	Builds buffer for logistics and signals professionalism.
Dress to impress.	Strong first impressions set the tone.
Your interview starts when you enter the building.	Reception/security interactions influence feedback.
Treat everyone as an interviewer; maintain eye contact with all.	Respect + inclusive eye contact show confidence and team awareness.
Expect multiple ~30-min sessions; keep answers consistent and assess "office fit."	Panels compare notes, consistency counts; you're also gauging team/role fit.



IN-PERSON – FINAL ROUND

Tip	Why It Matters
Reconfirm schedule & interviewers the day before.	Prepares you for back-to-back sessions and tailored examples.
Bring copies of your resume.	Makes it easy to reference accomplishments and spark discussion.
Lead with impact; keep stories tight.	Final rounds value depth – use clear results and metrics.
Ask strategic questions in each session.	Vary questions to learn about team norms, growth, and expectations.
Close strong in the last meeting.	Restate fit, enthusiasm, and what you'll deliver in the first 90 days.



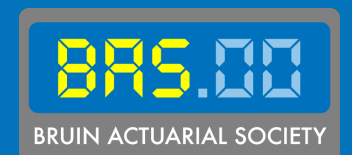
02

HOW TO PREPARE



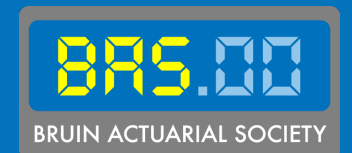
DO YOUR RESEARCH!

- **Study the company and role:** Review the mission, products, recent news, and the job's must-have skills
- **Look up interviewers on LinkedIn (if known):** Note their background and team, find authentic common ground to build rapport
- **Use multiple sources and cross-check:** Company site & careers page, blog/newsroom, LinkedIn, Glassdoor, Wikipedia, Google, and tools like Perplexity
 - Capture 3–5 talking points



DO YOUR RESEARCH!

- **Tap your network:** Ask classmates, alumni, or colleagues who've interviewed or worked there for quick tips on process, culture, and what to emphasize
- **Know your resume cold:** Be ready to discuss your key academic/professional experiences with 5–6 STAR stories that highlight impact
- **Prepare tailored questions:** Draft 2–3 smart questions per interviewer about team goals, success metrics, and upcoming challenges



INTERVIEW TIPS

1. Laptop/headphones (for virtual)
2. Phone on silent and in your bag
3. Multiple copies of resume for all interviewers
4. Pen/paper for note-taking
5. Business professional attire (Career Fair Attire)
6. Double-check time zones, links, and interview format
7. Sleep well, eat beforehand, and hydrate
8. Take brief pauses — it's okay to think before answering
9. Smile and engage naturally



03

TYPES OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS



BASIC QUESTIONS

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Why do you want to be an actuary?
3. Why are you interested in this industry (e.g., P&C/Life/Health/Consulting) and our company?
4. What recent industry news or regulatory change have you been following, and why does it matter?
5. Tell me about a project, internship, or experience where you used analytical skills to solve a problem.
6. Where do you see yourself in 5 (and/or 10) years?
7. How many actuarial exams have you passed, and which ones?
8. What does your study plan look like for upcoming exams?



“

Tell me about yourself.

”



“

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

1. Tell me about a time you had to work with a difficult person or stakeholder.
2. Describe a time you took initiative without being asked.
3. Give an example of explaining complex findings to a non-technical audience.
4. Tell me about a time you helped resolve a conflict in a team.
5. Describe a situation where you received critical feedback and how you responded.



01

Situation

- Set the scene with just enough context to understand the challenge
- State the who, what, when, and where - no analysis yet

03

Action

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

02

Task

- Define your objective and your specific responsibility in that situation
- Call out any constraints or challenges

04

Result

- Close with the impact and what changed because of your actions
- Quantify outcomes when possible

STAR METHOD

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

BAS.00

BRUIN ACTUARIAL SOCIETY

Situation

- During my summer internship on a finance team, we noticed declining profit margins across several key products.

Task

- I was responsible for identifying the pricing and cost factors contributing to those declines.

Action

- I consolidated sales, pricing, and cost data in Excel, analyzed trends by product, and tested how different pricing scenarios would affect margins. I then built a concise dashboard to present my findings to the finance and sales teams.

Result

- Within a week, we identified three major drivers of margin erosion that informed two pricing recommendations. The reusable reporting template I created also reduced preparation time for similar analyses by about 50%.

RESUME QUESTIONS

1. Give us a 60–90 second tour of your background, highlighting the choices that shaped it.
2. Walk us through your internship scope and impact. What were your responsibilities and measurable outcomes?
3. Which 2–3 skills did you develop the most, and how have you applied them since?
4. Describe the toughest challenge in your last role, what made it hard, what did you do, and what changed as a result?



COMPANY-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What about our clients, products, or approach makes this firm a strong fit for you specifically?
2. Which actuarial track are you leaning toward (P&C/Life/Health/Retirement) and what draws you to it?
3. What would success look like in your first 6–12 months here? How would you measure it?
4. How do we compare to other companies you're considering, and why us now?



BRAIN-TEASER QUESTIONS

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

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



CASE STUDY QUESTIONS

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

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



04

MAKING A LASTING IMPRESSION



DURING YOUR INTERVIEW

- Body Language
 - Maintain eye contact
 - Sit up straight
 - Avoid fidgeting or touching hair
 - Keep legs still
 - Smile and show enthusiasm
 - Speak clearly and confidently
 - Listen actively



DURING YOUR INTERVIEW

- Show your preparedness by asking good questions
 - What does success look like in this role?
 - What are traits that make candidates stand out?
 - What are the biggest challenges the team is facing?
 - How is performance evaluated?
 - What does a typical day look like?
 - What training or growth opportunities are available?



POST-INTERVIEW

- Thank the interviewer for their time
- Ask for their email or LinkedIn to send a thank-you note
- Send a short thank-you email within 24 hours
- Follow up politely if you haven't heard back by the expected date



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Do your research and know your resume
- Use the STAR method to structure answers
- Dress professionally and show confidence
- Prepare thoughtful questions and follow-up

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *First Year/Transfers Workshop* 10/13 6PM @ MS 6627
- *International Student Workshop* 10/13 6:30PM @ MS 6627
- *Coaching Actuaries Tutorial* 10/15 6PM @ MS 6627



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THANK YOU!

Any questions?

