Potential Graduate School Interview Questions
Compiled by Dr. Giordano, with a special thanks to the Belmont students who have contributed to this list!

Below are some questions that you may be asked on graduate school interviews. This list is by no means exhaustive, but it should give you a good idea of the kinds of things you might be asked. Some are from PhD and PsyD programs and others are from master’s level programs. If you are fortunate enough to land an interview, we hope these may be helpful to you. Also, when you interview, you will likely be giving the opportunity to ask some of your own questions of faculty or current grad students in the program. Below there are some examples of these questions as well.

And thank you to the graduate school applicants who shared these questions with us!

**Questions you might be asked:**
Basic Opener: "Tell me about yourself."
- Why are you interested in this program?
- Why do you think you would make a good student here?
- How did you become interested in psychology?
- What are your future goals in psychology?
- Why PhD vs. PsyD?
- What are your research interests?
- How did you become interested in this line of research?
- Do you have experience with all areas of the research process?
- Do you have any clinical experience? If, so tell me about it.
- Strengths/Weaknesses?
- Can you name a time when you failed and how did you respond to the failure?
- What do you do for self-care/stress reduction?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- Is there any population you would have difficulty working with?
- What do you anticipate the most difficult adjustment to graduate level work will be for you?

**Situational Questions:**
How would you respond to critical feedback from a supervisor?
- Writing Prompt-- given scenario about Informed Consent and therapy with a child/mother.
If you witnessed a fellow student administering an intelligence test incorrectly (so incorrectly that it invalidated the score) would you intervene and how? What would you say if the student became defensive?

**Other, possibly more difficult questions:**
- If you had to write your dissertation tomorrow, what would the title be?
- If you could have dinner with anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?
- Who is your favorite author in psychology?
- Are you interviewing at other programs?
- Where does this program fall on your list?
- Why did you choose psychology instead of medical school?
Do you believe that clinical psychologists should have prescription privileges?

Questions you can ask professors:
Why did you choose to work at PROGRAM NAME?
What is your favorite part? Selling point of this school for you?
What would your ideal candidate or cohort look like?
What does a typical day look like as a first year?
Is the emphasis split pretty evenly between research and clinical work?
Are there any specific directions you would like to see your research move towards in the next 5 years?
How does research mentorship work at PROGRAM NAME?
What type of internship placements and post-graduation jobs have students traditionally gotten?
What practicum sites are available?
What is the process like of obtaining an assistantship? Are these very competitive?

Questions you can ask graduate students in the program:
Why did you choose this program?
What is your favorite part?
What does a typical day look like for a first year student?
Is there anything you wish you would have known coming in?
Do you enjoy living in THIS CITY?
What do you like to do for fun here?
What are the assistantships like? Is it a competitive process? Can students teach courses?
Is there intermingling amongst other graduate programs on campus?
Are interdisciplinary courses available?
What do students usually do during the summers?

Questions from a master’s in mental health counseling interview:
Why do you want to go into clinical mental health counseling?
How do you handle professional and personal ethics?
Self-awareness is a core value of our program. Are you willing to discover aspects of yourself that you have yet to explore?
Not all of addictions counseling is face-to-face interaction with the client. How do you feel about documentation, reports, and data entry?
Why did you choose clinical mental health counseling and not something like nursing or social work?
ALSO, if you are applying to a faith-based counseling program you may be asked questions about how your faith might relate to your training in counseling.