COMPiled list of common* interview questions

*Certainly not exhaustive

General/traditional interview questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why did you choose Amherst College?
- What skills or interests have you developed during your time at Amherst?
- What kinds of jobs or internships have you held?
- Where would you like to be in five years?
- Why do you think you’d like this particular job?
- Do you prefer working alone or with others? Why? How do you build trusting relationships?
- What is a pet peeve of yours?
- What are your major strengths/weaknesses?
- Define success. Define failure.
- How do you spend your free time?
- What do you know about our organization? Why do you want to work here?
- What is your ideal work environment?
- What is your greatest accomplishment?
- If you were to come to work here, what’s one thing you want us to know about you?
- Are you willing to travel or relocate, if necessary?
- Why should I hire you?

Behavioral questions

These situational questions are based on the concept that the most accurate predictor of future performance is past performance. Interviewers will ask questions about your experience and how it might relate to your role in the position for which you are applying.

- Give me an example of a situation in which you succeeded/failed.
- Describe how you deal with criticism.
- Tell me about a recent challenge or mistake and how you handled it.
- Tell me about a time you had to use your writing skills to make an important point.
- Describe a leadership role you’ve held and tell why you committed your time to it.
- Give me an example of a recent good idea you had and what you did with it.
- Describe a situation where you had to use your creative abilities.
- Tell me how you would work as part of a team.
- What would you do in your first day on the job?
- Tell me about a time you’ve had to work under time constraints.