

The Interview

Whether it's a career fair, a phone screen, or an onsite interview you need to do your homework.

What's the purpose of an interview? Ultimately it is to decide if you have the skills, attitude, and long-term potential to make me and/or my company successful.

I can determine a lot from your resume: how you have performed against your peers, how much initiative you have, can you communicate at the most basic level. If you have an interview – excluding the career fair – then you have at least passed the first level.

The interview is intended to dig deeper, can you back up the claims in your resume, can you talk intelligently about your class material and projects. Its also an opportunity for me to see if you have done your homework on my company and what we do.

Be prepared to:

- Discuss your classes
- Discuss your projects
- Discuss your internships (or other work)
- Answer the classic questions
 - Strengths, weaknesses, ideal job, where do you see yourself in x years
- Solve problems – usually fundamentals

Do your homework and be prepared to ASK QUESTIONS about:

- Recent news about the company
- What major projects this group is working on
- Various roles in the group / company
- Your role – right away, 2-3 years, ...

Bring copies of your resume but only offer one if the interviewer asks – or clearly is not familiar with it
No gimmicks

Ask whoever invites you to the interview about appropriate dress

Ask whoever invites you to the interview about who you will be meeting – and what their roles are

Send a thank-you not to everyone you spoke to

- Preferably a handwritten one
- If necessary - email

These are my opinions. They are based on 30 years of experience as an engineer, manager and executive. They do not reflect the opinions or positions of MSOE.