

PREPARING FOR YOUR TECHNICAL INTERVIEW

Preparation is key to enhancing outcomes of the technical interview process. Candidates who possess the ability to communicate their technical skill set may find themselves experiencing interviews that are more successful. It is recommended to utilize the following resources, complete a Mock Interview, and attend an Interviewing workshop.

CHARACTERISTICS & COMPONENTS

The Importance of a Technical Interview

Technical interview questions assess a candidate's problem solving skills, reasoning abilities, and technological skill level. Technical interview components can include:

- At-home coding challenges
- Phone screenings
- In-person questions
- Assessments

These questions can include puzzles, trivia, pair-programming, and coding problems. For example: You're given a binary tree and two nodes in the tree. Find the lowest common ancestor of the two given nodes in $O(n)$ time.

Purpose of Case Interviews

Companies utilize the technical interview to assess specific technical knowledge required for the occupation and the organization. While the technology industry is the most common user of this interview type, other industries utilize this method when hiring technical positions within the finance, healthcare, and manufacturing industries.

A critical part of understanding the technical interview process involves first assessing technical skills by inventorying your skill set and experiences. Consider:

- What technical-based courses (i.e. Data Structures and Algorithms) have I taken?
- What relevant class projects or certificates did I complete?
- What transferrable skills did I develop through my experiential learning opportunities (i.e. Internships, Shadowing, Coding boot camps, Part-time jobs, Hack-a-Thon) translate to this position?
- How do I articulate my competencies built through personal projects or other work?



ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

Mock Interview

Schedule a mock interview to hone your interviewing skills while developing confidence in your ability to deliver strong interview performances.

career.fsu.edu/mock-interview

Career Advising

Meet with a Career Advisor about additional information and/or resources that might be helpful for your technical interview.

career.fsu.edu/hours

- Drop-in hours at the Career Center Library
- Career Liaison to the College of Arts & Sciences: Physical Sciences, Technology, & Mathematics
- Career Liaison to the College of Business
- Career Liaison to the College of Communication and Information

CandidCareer Videos

Watch expert-guided videos on how to successfully prepare for and perform well in an interview.

career.fsu.edu/careerspots

Interviewing Guides

Review interviewing guides such as The First Job Interview, Preparing for a Telephone Interview, Preparing for your Second Interview and Preparing for a Technical Interview.

career.fsu.edu/career-guides

Career Portfolio

Visit the Career Portfolio platform to view sample Business, Computer Science, and Information Technology portfolios.

career.fsu.edu/portfolio

Online Resources

- **Hacker Rank**
Participate in solving code challenges, which is one of the best ways to prepare for programming interviews.
<https://www.hackerrank.com/>
- **The Muse**
Find some tips that are helpful to ace any technical interview and to map out your strategy.
<https://www.themuse.com/advice/how-to-ace-your-technical-interview>
- **“The Internship”**
A sample of what not to do in an interview.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28L5epip9TQ>

- **Tech Interviews**
Search for technical interview questions, brain teasers, puzzles, quizzes and other things that make you think.
<https://www.techinterview.org/>
- **Google Interview**
See two Google engineers demonstrate a mock interview question. After they code, the engineers highlight best practices for interviewing at Google.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKu_SEDAykw

Additional Resources

- **Cracking the Coding Interview** by Gayle Laakmann McDowell

