

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

- First of all, should you even interview?
 - Check out [Grinnell's video on this very question!](#)
 - And [University of Rochester's video!](#)
 - You can check College Kickstart to see which of your schools offer interviews under the Requirements View! As you'll see, there are many schools for which interviews are simply not even a part of the process. For any school that offers an interview, even if listed in College Kickstart as 'optional' or 'non-evaluative', it is a good idea to pursue the opportunity - demonstrated interest, friends.



SAMPLE STUDENT



Your Current Plan								Requirements View	
Rank	Institution/Plan	Season	Common App	Standardized Testing	Recommendations	Interviews	Short Answer/Essay Prompts	Checklist	
1	Bowdoin College <i>Early Decision I</i>	2024-25		Optional	1C, 1T, 1 other	Strongly encouraged	Base + 1 prompt (250 words) + 1 optional (250 words)		
2	Colorado College ^{HS} <i>Regular Decision</i>	2024-25		Optional	1C (recommended), 2T	Non-evaluative	Base + 1 prompt (300 words)		
3	Vassar College ^{HS} <i>Regular Decision</i>	2024-25		Optional	1C, 1T	Optional, non-evaluative	Base + 1 prompt (300 words)		
4	Vanderbilt University ^{HS} <i>Regular Decision</i>	2024-25		Optional	1C, 2T	Not offered	Base + 1 prompt (250 words)		

- Prepare a few questions for your interviewer!! They can be school-specific or something you ask every school you interview.
- Be prepared for some version of a "Why are you applying to this school?" You're not expected to be an expert, but being prepared shows interest and respect. Plus, it'll help with your supplement!
- Reflect on your educational experience at Bush. What have you enjoyed most? Least?
- Think of a few topics you know really well from recent classes or Cascades/Internships. How can they relate to a variety of questions?
- Dress comfortably. Be yourself.
- Know where you're going and parking, and get there early. Or, if in virtual mode, make sure you have your Zoom link (and a quiet space) ready to go!
- You are not required to bring or have anything with you during an interview unless it is specifically asked of you in advance. It can help to have your questions written down in a notebook or phone. And only refer to your notebook or phone when you're in the Q&A portion!!

DURING THE INTERVIEW

- [Harvey Mudd has a wonderful webpage of questions they ask their interviewees.](#) Be sure to check out your school's website to see if they have a similar resource!
- Feeling nervous and/or wondering about common interview mistakes? Want to hear directly from the people interviewing you?
 - Check out [this helpful guide from Smith College!](#)
 - [Tufts has a great blog post on what to expect as well.](#)

- College interviewers will evaluate you on three broad categories: academics/intellectual curiosity, extracurricular involvement, and personality/values. They'll ask a variety of questions to assess each of these areas... Expect many of those questions to be fun, and for some of them to be very weird!
- What you have done is not nearly as important as why you did it, why it was important to you, and how it has helped you to grow.
- Always answer a question with more than one word. Explain why! (Why are those activities the most rewarding? Why is that book your favorite?)
- Have a conversation. Think about how you make conversation with Bush School teachers. Though some interviewers will stick to set questions, many want an actual dialogue. Ask follow-up questions, and be respectfully curious about the interviewer, especially current students and alums.
- Silence your phone!
- If you get a little stuck, it's okay! Don't be afraid to say you're not sure, and you'd like some time to think over your answer.

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Write notes about the interview.
- Send a thank-you note or email to the interviewer. Thank the person for their time and refer to something specific you discussed.
- Remember, the interview is just one piece of the application. It won't make OR break your application!!!