## **General Advice**

- Remember, an interview is about your stories. Make a list of stories you want to share/projects, lessons learned, assignments, past work experiences and be ready to talk about them.
- Smile
- Speak slowly
- Make eye contact
- Give a firm hand shake (practice this with everyone who comes in)
- Bring a notebook to write down questions you have for this company.
- Dress like you care
- Feel free to practice some of these answers with friends before the interview
- Interviewers will be looking for the **"STAR"** answers be sure you include:
  - a. S situation describe what happened/give the context of the situation
  - b. T task What did I
  - c. A action do about it?
  - d. R- result May not be a perfect grade, could be what I learned about people or a specific skill...

## Sample Interview Questions

- A. Tell me a bit about yourself, including your area of study
  - What are you about technically
  - Answer should match job you are going for and be about 2 minutes long
  - Give examples
- B. Why are you interested in our company?
  - Make it a personal connection
  - A product you make
  - Something you saw on the website
  - A family connection
- C. If you could describe the perfect job or summer experience for you, what would it be?
  - Make it relevant to the job description
- D. They can almost always expect a question about Teamwork:
  - Tell me about the toughest team you've had to work with. What was your role on the team? What made it difficult? What did you do about it? What kind of grade did you end up getting?

- Be sure when you are talking about the TEAM experiences, illustrate that you understood the greater purpose/goal of the project, while also 'sweating the small stuff', particularly in the areas you were responsible for. Be sure your answers give a good mix of "I" and "We" you don't want too much of one and not the other.
- Be respectful in how you speak about others
- How did you work to engage the person and get them on board
- What did you learn?
- E. Tell me what you are good at.
  - Give a couple (1-2) good technical answers, be humble!
- F. What would your former supervisor or professor say you need to work on?
  - Start your statement with "In the past" or a similar phrase. You want to show that you are aware of this, are actively working on it, and that this 'weakness' is really no longer an issue
  - Give one weakness, not a whole list
- G. Describe a situation in which you saw a problem and took action to correct it, rather than wait for someone else to do so.
- H. What questions do you have for me?
  - a. Be prepared with 8-10 questions, be sure you have some (and different ones) for each interviewer
  - b. Make them relevant to the company or the specific job

## Additional Interview Questions

- 1. What made you decide to go to Olin?
- 2. What classes were your favorite? Which were your least favorite?
- 3. What are you thinking of doing once you graduate from here?
- 4. Do you have a 5-year plan? What is it?
- 5. **Complex Project Question:** Tell me about a complex technical assignment you were given. How did you go about solving it?
  - a. What was the goal?
  - b. How did you contribute?

- 6. **Personal Organization Question:** You obviously have a lot going on. Tell me how you organize yourself. Give me an example of a time you had conflicting priorities what did you do about it?
- 7. Tell me about a time you made a mistake in judgment.

Know Thyself:

- 8. Tell me about an accomplishment you're proud of.
- 9. We've all had the experience of thinking we knew how to solve a job or school problem only to find out we couldn't. Can you give me an example of a time this happened to you?
- 10. What make you unique from the other people I'm interviewing for this job?
- 11. What frustrates you?

Technical Expertise:

- 12. Describe a time when you successfully demonstrated your technical knowledge in an area.
- 13. Tell me about a new skill or task you have had to learn quickly.
- 14. What do you feel is the skill you have that is the most valuable?

Initiative:

- 15. Tell me about a project or idea that was implemented primarily because of your efforts.
- 16. Tell me about a time when you exceeded a customer's expectations what did you do?
- 17. How did you get your last internship or job? What did you enjoy most/least about that job?

Overcoming Adversity:

- 18. Tell me about a time when someone misunderstood you in your studies/work. What happened, and what did you do about it?
- 19. Tell me about a time you were unable to honor a commitment or meet a deadline because of a personal issue.
- 20. In a leadership position, was there ever a time when you stuck by an opinion or a decision that was against the popular consensus? Tell me about that what was the result?

Interpersonal Skills:

- 21. What qualities do you look for in peers, managers?
- 22. Tell me about your toughest persuasive experience.
- 23. Tell me about a time you had to work with a difficult person. What happened, and what did you do about it?
- 24. Have you ever helped a peer/team member improve his or her performance at work or school? Tell me about it.