

Symsys 200 (Symbolic Systems in Practice)
Interviews (3/2/2012)

Review the material on Interviews in the CDC's *Career Planning Handbook* (pp. 51-56).

Do your homework before your interview!

Have something to present, e.g. on a laptop, in case you are asked. This is always appropriate for academic interviewing, but sometimes also for industrial (particularly industrial research) positions. If you are applying for a design or programming position, have a portfolio, and be prepared to code or design on the fly!

Practice interviewing and/or do a workshop at the CDC.

Talk to alums who work in your target area for info about how to interview well.

Generally: what you have done is more important than what you say you want to do.

Pay attention to the differences between different types of interviews.

- Industrial – often multiple rounds and likely to include technical interviews as well as pre-tests
- Ph.D. programs – usually done in group settings as a final step before admission (“open house”) - you can interview grad students as well; see the UAR website on graduate schools.
- Professional schools – various types depending on the field; see the UAR website on professional schools.
- Nonprofit – often good to volunteer with an org before you try to work with them
- Government – more likely to require legal background check/security clearance
- Academic jobs (post-Ph.D.) - generally involves giving a talk on your research, and possibly teaching a class, as well as extensive meeting schedule over 1-2 days