



LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

SLP Externship Interview Prep

General Tips and Strategies:

1. Brainstorm at least your top 5 positive qualities or experiences that would make you a good fit for this particular position and plan to say those nice things about yourself during the interview.
2. Always speak in the positive. Focus answers on the “haves” vs “nots.”
3. Highlight your strengths throughout, you don’t have to wait for that question. They do want to know, so don’t be afraid to tell them.
4. Give interesting examples rather than lists. Your answers can tell a little story that makes you interesting and sets you apart.
5. Watch wordiness – answers need to be complete and descriptive but watch the timing of your answers so that you don’t lose the listener’s attention or repeat yourself.
6. Don’t worry if you don’t know the answer. You can speak instead to where you can find that information and use the opportunity to demonstrate your initiative and motivation for learning more instead.
7. Avoid revealing anything personal. If asked a personal question, try to redirect.
8. For a weakness as a student you can use a clinical area you are still learning but NEVER use writing or interpersonal skills as a weakness.
9. Practice and be over-prepared. This will increase your confidence give you the ability to present yourself in the best light possible.
10. Never be late! In fact, be early and plan for issues with parking, and knowing exactly where and how to contact the interviewer on arrival.
11. Dress professionally with quiet shoes! For student interviews don’t “over dress” but consider the need to blend in with the staff and how they dress and not draw attention to what you are wearing. You may be asked to walk around and tour. For CF you can dress up and wear a suit.
12. Ask questions to demonstrate your knowledge of the facility and your interest in working there.
13. Always send a thank you following the interview. Email is best. Mail is fine but also send an email for time sake. Don’t text.
14. Make sure to get any contact info (names, emails) before leaving. Ask for a business card if they have.

Practice Questions

(write out answers and say them aloud)

I. Professionalism Questions

1. Tell me something about yourself.
2. Tell me what brought you into the field to study SLP or why you picked Loyola.
3. Why are you interested in this type of placement or facility in particular? Or Tell me what type of placement you are looking for or most interested in?
4. What type of experience are you hoping to gain?
5. What kind of learner are you?
6. How do you like to receive constructive criticism? (real time/ after session?)
7. What coursework have you had that would prepare you for this placement?
8. What clinical experiences have you had that would prepare you for this placement?
9. Are you most interested in working with pediatrics or adults?
10. Do you plan on staying in this area after graduation?
11. What would you say are your strengths? (This can be phrased many ways)
12. What are your areas of weakness?
13. How do you handle difficult situations?
14. Have you ever experienced a conflict with a client or instructor and how did you handle it?
15. Have you ever fainted or gotten sick around hospitals or nursing centers?
16. What measures do you employ to manage stress?

II. Technical Questions

A. Medical (Primarily re Adult population)

1. Know the cranial nerves and their function. Which of these play a part in speech and swallowing?
2. Describe the stages of the swallow.
3. Go through the process of how you would perform a bedside swallow evaluation
4. Describe an oral motor exam.
5. What are the signs and symptoms of aspiration?
6. When would you refer for a MBS/ VFSS?
7. What is the importance of the case history?
8. What is the difference between aphasia and cognition?
9. What types of disorders would you expect to see in a Left Hemisphere CVA (LCVA) vs. a Right Hemisphere CVA (RCVA)?
10. What are the areas of communication that are typically assessed for someone with a LCVA? Can you name a test you might use? How can you assess aphasia without a formal assessment?
11. What are the areas of communication that are typically assessed for someone with a RCVA? Can you name a test you might use?
12. What areas do you assess for a patient with a TBI? Can you name a test you might use?
13. Name the different types of dysarthria and what each mean.
14. What is apraxia and how is it different than dysarthria?
15. Do you have any preparation or exposure in the area of trach/ vent or for Head and Neck CA for swallowing and communication? (This is advanced and may come up later for spring semester applications but they can still ask because different Universities teach these things at different times).

B. *Ped Hospital* (also see school or any pediatric clinic questions)

1. Do you have any experience handling babies or preemies?
2. What is your understanding of how a child's swallow differs from an adult's?
3. Tell me about your diagnostic experiences.
4. Case Studies: You have a 4 year old with expressive language disorder. Name a test you would use to assess him and a goal you could develop for his plan of care.
5. Case Studies: You have an 8 year old with Downs Syndrome. Name a test you would use to assess and provide 1-2 goals.
6. Case Studies: You have a 10 year old with autism. Name a test you would use and 1-2 goals to address pragmatic language skills.

C. *School*

1. What is the difference between a clinical SLP and a school-based SLP?
2. What is one tx approach you have used and found effective? Why do you think it was effective?
3. One of the teachers at your respective school referred one of her 6 year old students for concerns with his fluency. Would you agree to complete an assessment and, if so, how would you go about collecting the necessary information?

D. *General Clinical*

1. Tell me about your diagnostic experiences.
2. What types of diagnoses and populations have you worked with?
3. Anything about your resume.

Updated: Dede Matrangola MS CCC-SLP 7/21/15