



## Interview Pearls 2014

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SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY  
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# Outline

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- Interviewing Misconceptions/Facts
- My Story
- Interview Tips
- Mock interviews
- Student Volunteers
- Questions



## Interview Misconceptions

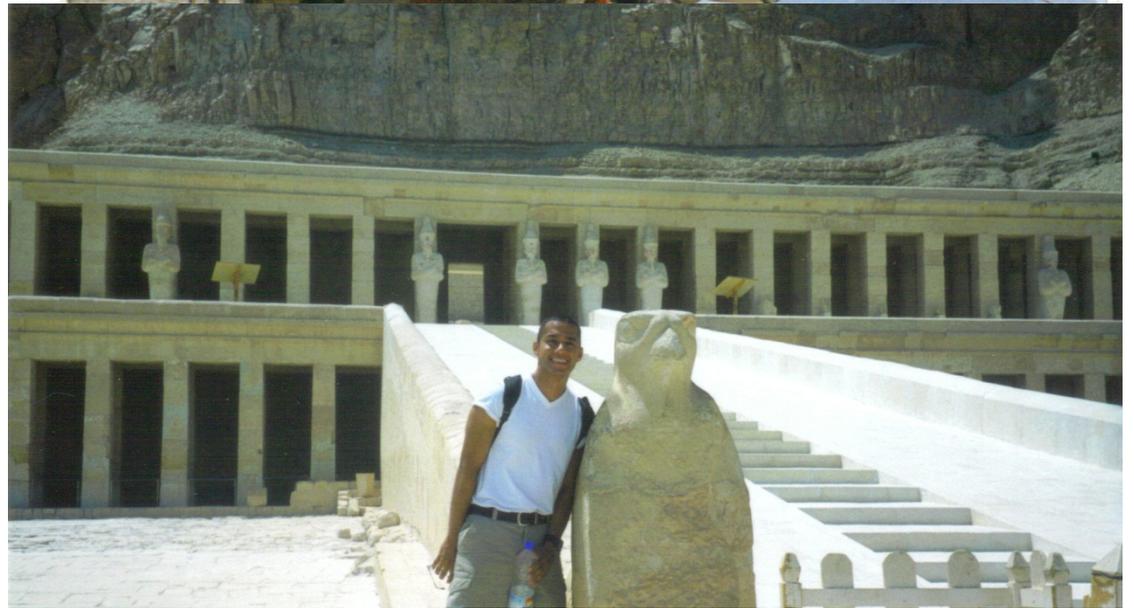
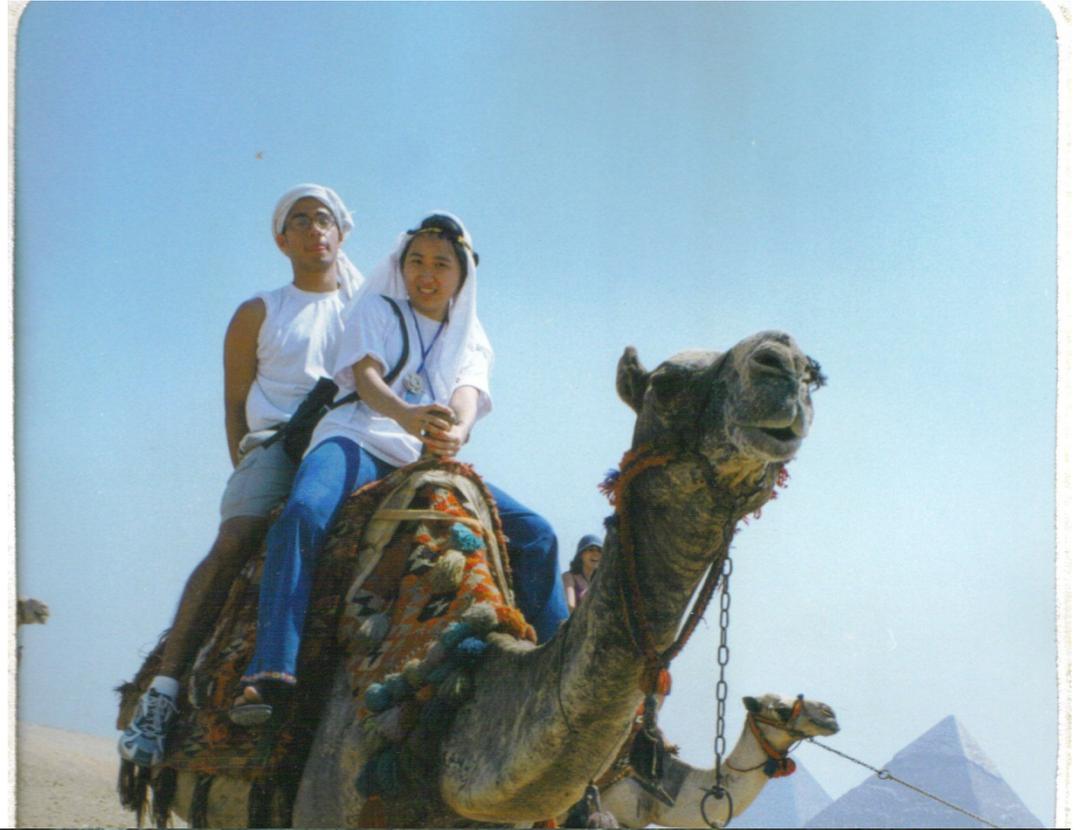
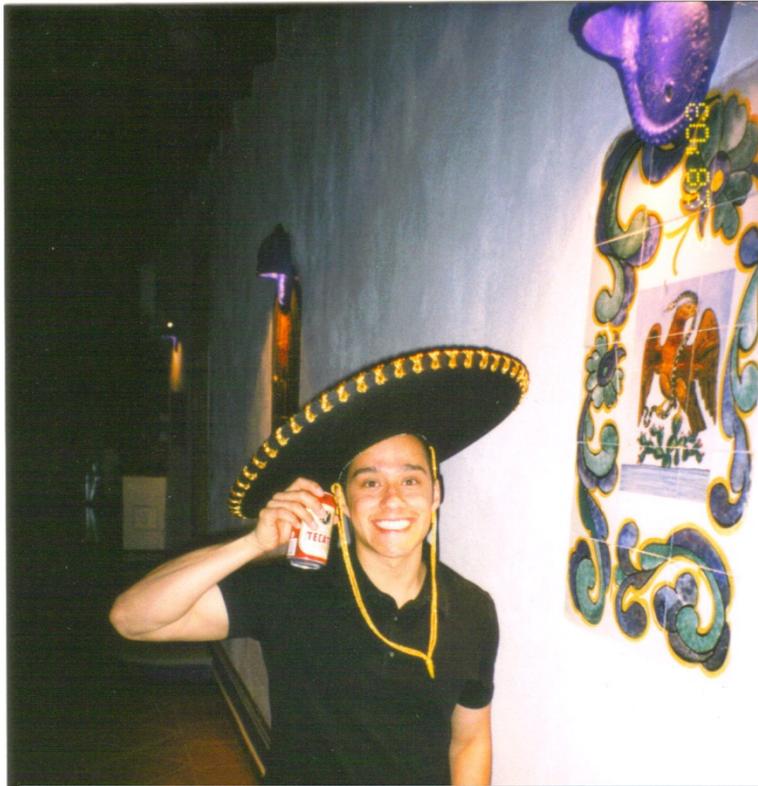
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- If asked for an interview, I am guaranteed a residency
- If I look good on paper, it is ok if I don't do well in the interview
- The interviewers will not ask questions about my CV
- It would be rude to ask the interviewers questions
- Students from out of state are not as competitive as in-state students

## Interview Facts

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- Programs interview more applicants than they have spots for
- No matter how good you look on paper, you have to perform well in the interview
- Most interviewers will not have time to review your CV prior to the interview
  - *Everything* on your CV is fair game
- Residency is a big commitment, so make sure your questions have been answered
- Out of state residents bring new ideas and are appealing to most programs



## Juan Toledo

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- Academic probation every other semester
- Traveled abroad to attend IPSF meetings
- Clueless on 4<sup>th</sup> year rotations
- Late for reviewing deadlines for residency
- Scared of having a horrible job or hurting someone
- Applied to one program and received one interview



# Juan Toledo

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- Prepared for the interview
  - Mock interviews with preceptors
  - Mock interview at the University Career Center
  - Rehearsed in front of the mirror
  - Practiced, Practiced, Practiced!
- Day before interview
  - Flew in early
  - Drove to hospital, walked around, observed staff
  - Got plenty of sleep

# Juan Toledo

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- Day of interview
  - Arrived early
  - Had questions written down
  - Asked the resident lots of questions while getting a tour
  - Had copies of an updated CV
  - Wore a suit and tie
  - Remained calm and relaxed
  - Wrote down key points and questions about the program right after leaving

# Interview Tips

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- Give specific examples
  - I am a hard worker for example this one day...
- Look the interviewers in the eye
  - Look at the person who asked you the question unless writing, then find someone else to make eye contact
- Avoid verbal static
  - Take a pause, breath, drink of water instead of using “filler words”
- Review recent publications by preceptors
  - You did your research

# Interview Tips

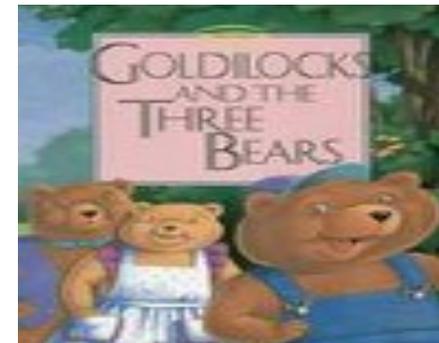
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- Keep hand gestures to a minimum
  - You want focus on your words not your hands
- Dress conservatively
  - Suit, iron clothes, maybe a piece of flash?
- Speak up so everyone can hear you
- Come to a complete stop
  - Do not trail off at the end your thought
- Try not to fidget
  - Don't play with your pen, etc.
  - Keep area on table in front of you clear, if a problem

# Interview Tips

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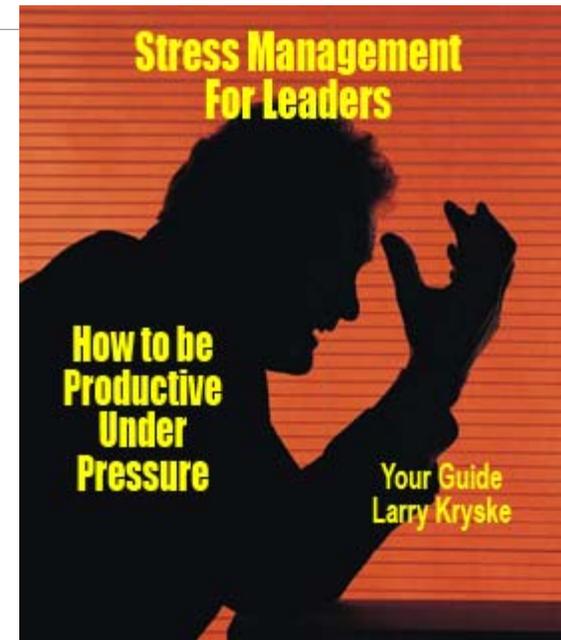
- Hobby questions? Be honest
  - You may be able to make a connection, be memorable
- Be wary of making answers too long or too short
  - If too long → interviewers won't get through everything
  - Too short → no opportunity to get to know you
- Have questions ready (written down!) to ask the panel
- Practice, Practice, Practice
  - Practice your main points
  - Tell a good story
  - BUT, do not sound rehearsed!



## Interview Tips

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- The entire day is an interview
  - Introduction, lunch, tour, ect.
- Thank-you letter or email
- Open house
- Clinical questions
  - General Topics
- Some questions have no answers
  - Want to see how you handle pressure
  - Thought process



# Interview Tips

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- Smile
  - You make everyone feel comfortable by smiling



## Online Interviews

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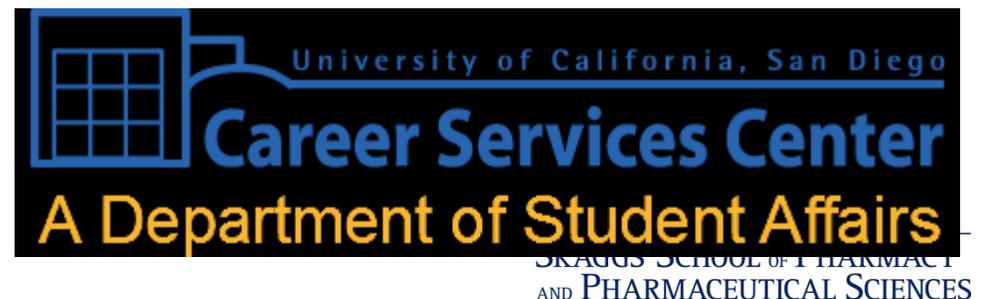
- Online interviews on the rise
- Less time than a full day interview
- Helps to make sure don't miss a great candidate
- May prevent interviewing candidates that aren't a good fit
- Some programs doing this for students that are on the fence



# UCSD Career Services Center

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- Interview Stream is a GREAT resource!
  - All you need is a computer and a web cam
  - Site asks you questions and records your answers
  - You review the recording with an expert at the Center
- University of California, San Diego
  - <http://career.ucsd.edu/about-us/online-applications.html>
  - Phone: 858-534-3751



## ABOUT US

Staff Directory

Services

UC Strategic Plan 2012-2015

Annual Report (PDF)

Contact Information, Directions,  
and Office Hours

Eligibility

Staff Affiliations and  
Contributions

Advance Access for Incoming  
Students

Log in to [Port Triton](#) to access these online tools. You will find references to these tools throughout the **Career Service Center** website.



### Port Triton

Port Triton is UC San Diego's database of off-campus jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities and on-campus jobs (including work-study). It is also the access point to the Career Services Center's online job tools available exclusively to current students and those meeting [eligibility](#) requirements. [Click here](#) for more information.



### Career Insider

Access Vault's career intelligence guides, salary reports, employer rankings and reviews. Search profiles and analyze companies and industries.



### CareerLeader

This self-assessment tool helps those interested in business careers measure and determine patterns of business-relevant interests, values and abilities. CareerLeader helps you evaluate core business interests as well as what is important to you in a position or work environment. The program is suited for undergraduate and graduate students and requires a special login from a career advisor.



### FOCUS

Use the [FOCUS self-assessment tool](#) to gain a better understanding of yourself and your interests. Uncover your strengths through the self awareness report. Discover satisfying careers matched to your skills and values.



### Going Global

Interested in landing an international career? Search over 500,000 international jobs and internships. Obtain expert advice on CV, resume, work permit & visa requirements for work abroad. Identify companies who have submitted H1B visa applications.



### biginterview

Practice your interviews in private using simple webcam setup. Record your interview and review it with a Career Services advisor. Tighten your delivery.

## Online Interviews

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- Look directly at the camera vs the computer screen
- It's the same principle as making eye contact during an in-person interview
- Get rid of all potential distractions
- Maybe difficult to see yourself during the interview.
  - Practice in front of a mirror to see facial expression



## Online Interviews

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- Conduct the interview behind a plain background
  - No distracting posters or paintings
- Dress as if you were going into the employer's office
  - No shorts, t-shirt
- Practice with one of your friends to iron out any technical issues



## Mock Interview Student #1

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- What are your strength and weakness?
- What do you expect to get from a residency?
- Describe a time when you attempted to intervene in the medication therapy for a patient on your team and the doctors did not follow you recommendation.
- What was the last non-pharmacy book you read?
- If you could go back and change one thing, what would it be and why?

## Pearls for student #1

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- Be sure to tell how you are working on your weakness
- Be sure to share how your strength applies to pharmacy and residency
- Do your homework so that your expectations of residency fit reality
- Write down positive interventions on rotations so that you can remember them clearly for your interview (make sure they are clinically accurate)
- For “non-pharmacy” questions, show that you are a person others would want to be friends and co-workers with

## Mock Interview Student #2

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- Do you work better independently or in a group?
- What sets you apart from other applicants?
- What are your hobbies/interests outside of school?
- If a doctor from the ED called and asked you to give a dose of a drug that you are not familiar with, what would you do?

## Pearls for Student #2

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- Being a team-player is key to any pharmacy staff. Be sure you can share examples of this quality.
- If asked a “problem-solving” type of questions, be sure to talk through your thought process as you answer the questions. Even if the interviewer disagrees with your answer, they should be able to see that you can think logically.

## Mock Interview #3

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- Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
- What would make you a good fit for the hospital?
- Describe an accomplishment that you are most proud of.
- Tell me about a situation that you were involved with that was difficult to handle. How did you handle it? In retrospect, would you have done anything different?

## Pearls for Students #3

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- If talking about the future, be sure to describe how doing the residency will help you get to the future you desire. If you can't do this, you may be applying to the wrong programs.
- When asked situational questions, demonstrate your ability to learn from mistakes and have a teachable attitude