CEAT
Career Services

Technical Interviews

Popularly used by companies on the forefront of technological development and application, technical interviews are a way for employers to gauge candidate's knowledge prior to hiring. These are typically the second step in the job interview process. Prepare well as this interview will more than likely determine whether you continue to the next step in the application process.

What to Do

Before Your Technical Interview

Find out what type of technical interview will be conducted. For Electrical and Computer Engineering, they are often of the hardware or software variety.

Re-familiarize yourself with the basics. For software, review common algorithms, search/sort methods, and language implementations. For hardware, review core components (AC/DC converters, MOSFETs, etc.) that are commonly used by the company.

The employer will possibly provide different scenarios and ask you to work through them to determine your thought process; practice explaining your logic as you work through a problem.

Practice developing simple solutions to problems utilizing the fundamentals. (Creating a simple amplifier, how to get an audio signal from a microphone to a computer, pseudo-code for sorting through selections, etc.)

Develop alternatives for technical jargon to explain your solutions to less technically informed interviewers.

During Your Technical Interview

Pay attention to your body language. We recommended you sit with good posture so that your voice will project better. Do not be afraid to use your hands to be expressive. Look directly at the interviewer and lean in slightly to convey interest.

Take your time to answer; do not be afraid to pause when asked to create something on the spot. It is better to wait and create a well-thought out solution rather than to create a serviceable solution quickly.

Be careful not to sound arrogant when explaining previous technical experience or developments.

Know that "I am not sure, but I can find out" is a better answer than attempting to explain something you are unaware of.

After Technical Interview

Send a thank you note, quickly. Send a thank you   e-mail an hour or two after the interview. Emphasize your interest in hearing back from the interviewer.