

Dietetic Internship Interview Tips

The DI interviews can be pretty open-ended, but in general here are some tips:

- #1 Practice, practice, practice!
- Be prepared for phone, Skype (or another web conferencing service), one-on-one, and/or a group interview.
- Listen carefully, be concise and stay on the topic, speak with confidence (don't mumble or have lots of "umm" or "uhhh's" between your words), and be professional.
- Usually the interviewers will want to ask you something that is simply about you or your experiences to get you comfortable talking. Be prepared to say a few sentences to begin with about such topics as: what are your strengths; why you think you are well prepared for a DI; why you want to go to this DI; an experience that had a big impact on your career goals; etc...
- You may be asked some general knowledge questions, but these will most likely be ones that you should be able to answer without specific studying. Examples might be...
 - What is CHF and what is the usual MNT approach?
 - What are some key concepts of diabetes management for someone with type 1 (on intensive insulin therapy) or type 2 on oral medications?
 - What is metabolic syndrome and what is the TLC diet?
 - What is the NCP and an advantage of using diagnostic terms?
 - How would you go about assessing whether a surgery patient needs a TF or TPN?
 - What is HACCP?
 - You are assessing lab values from a medical record and find the pt has a BMI of 33, serum alb of 3.0, BG of 325 and TG of 200....are any of these values of concern and why?
 - How would you decide how to prioritize the issues above and decide which to address with a client who you are seeing for outpatient counseling?
 - A FS or clinical dept manager should have many skills including planning skills, problem solving abilities and the ability to embrace and take responsibility -- which skill do you think is the most important and why?
 - Think about foodservice system inputs (such as financial resources, human resources, and raw food products) -- if you are the manager what do you think represents the input where your greatest responsibility lies and why?
 - What would you do if an MD asked you to sign off on a pt's chart that you had counseled the pt, when you actually had not done so yet?

- What do you think about recommending multivitamin/mineral supplements for clients or the general public?
- You may be asked some questions that are designed to gain information about your work habits and interpersonal skills. Examples might be...
 - Do you use technology to manage your time or resources -- if so how?
 - If you were a dietetic intern and you were asked a question that you couldn't answer...what would you do and how would you find the answer?
 - Tell me about a situation where you led a group of others. What was the situation and how did you manage the situation?
 - Tell me about a situation where you felt you were poorly treated by an instructor, an employer or another authority figure. What did you do? What was the outcome?
 - What kinds of decisions are easy for you to make? What kinds of decisions are difficult for you to make?
 - What do you view as your strengths? In what areas do you need to improve?
- You will most likely be given the opportunity to ask a question at the end of the interview -- it is fine to do so and it is a good idea to have a couple of pertinent questions ready. They should be about the DI program and focus on something of particular interest to you; such as:
 - If they have an elective rotation, how is that decided? (ie. do they have a list of local opportunities and do you have any input).
 - Do interns get the opportunity to be exposed to public policy experiences?
 - Do interns get to go to the state dietetic association meetings?
 - etc..... Whatever you feel like you need more information about.
- You may also be asked to respond to questions that should not have been asked, like "How did you rank our program on the D&D form?" or "What other programs are you applying to?" or a question about your marital status. You should have thought about an appropriate response, just in case such a question is asked of you.
- Thank the interviewers for the interview opportunity and close by saying something like you look forward to the possibility of attending their internship program.