

Bonner Interview Database

Bonner Interviews, whether in person or via Skype, are an important element in determining an applicant's fit with the Bonner program and commitment to the values of your campus and community. This resource is a compilation of interview questions used by seven Bonner Scholar and Leader Programs (Brown University, Mars Hill University, Maryville College, Siena College, University of Tampa, Ursinus College, and Widener University), which you may adapt or use in your own interview process.

Bonner Personal Interviews usually last a total of 20-30 minutes. It is comprised of the following parts:

- I. Bonner Program Introduction (5 minutes)
- II. 6-8 Interview Questions (15 minutes)
- III. Applicant Questions (5-10 minutes)

Interview questions generally fall within nine themes (as seen below):

- Bonner Program Fit
- Relationship Building / Teamwork
- Social Justice / Public Policy
- Time Management
- Willingness to Work with Diverse Individuals
- Leadership
- Personal Reflection / Open-Minded to Growth
- Ethic of Service
- Commitment to Campus

Please feel free to adapt or copy the questions below to craft your unique interview process.

Bonner Program Fit

- How did you learn about the Bonner program? What about the program made you decide to apply?
- Please explain two reasons why you want to be a Bonner Leader and how you see yourself contributing to the program. What are you excited to learn from your peers?

Relationship Building / Teamwork

- Who are your role models and why? **OR** Can you name one person who has influenced you and why/how?
- Can you describe for us a time when you were in a situation of difficult communication? How did you handle it and what was the outcome?
- Tell us about a time when you stepped up in a team-based situation. What role did you play? What was the outcome?
- The Bonner Program is one that requires Bonner to work together on a number of projects. Please describe a time that you worked with a group for a collective outcome.

Social Justice / Public Policy

- What does social justice mean to you?

- Where or in what area do you feel called to serve?
- If you could design your own internship or service opportunity to pursue what you're most passionate about what would it look like and what issue area would it be focused on?
- In your application, you mention that ____ is a social issue that is important to you. Can you please talk about that more? What impact would you want to make?
- Can you describe a drawback to doing service?
- What do you think of the statement, "Poor people are poor because they are lazy."?

Time Management

- What are your academic interests? How will you combine your academic interests with your work as a Bonner student?
- Will you be on an athletic team? If so, what sport? Have you already connect with the coach - or is it something you are just thinking about?
- Explain to us what methods you use to budget your time and handle multiple responsibilities at once.
- What other time commitments do you anticipate having during the school year? How do you plan to balance all of these commitments?

Willingness to Work with Diverse Individuals

- When have you encountered someone very different from you and how did you handle it?
- In the Bonner program, you will encounter all types of diversity (not just racial or ethnic). How do you form relationships with people who are different than you?
- An important aspect of the Bonner program is the ability to work with people who are different from you. Please talk about any cross-cultural experiences you've had or describe a situation where you worked with someone different from yourself. What did you learn from that experience?

Leadership

- What do you think are the necessary qualities of an effective leader?
- What are your strongest characteristics as a leader?
- It looks like you have been very involved in your high school. In what role do you think you've learned the most about leadership? Why? What did you learn?
- What skills and abilities do you think make a good leader? Which of those skills are your strengths, and which would you want to work on improving in selected as a Bonner?

Personal Reflection / Open-Minded to Growth

- Describe yourself in three words. OR Describe your most prominent characteristic.
- Please describe a time when you have faced adversity/difficulty.
- What are your strengths and what is something you need to work on?
- Tell us something unique about yourself.
- What would friends or family members say are your worst characteristics?
- Give us an example of a time when you recognized something about yourself that you wanted to change or improve. How did you go about doing it?
- Describe the unique talents, skills, and perspective you bring to service work.
- Please describe one specific goal you have for yourself in college besides doing well academically.
- What is a book that you've read recently that had an impact on you?

Ethic of Service

- What community work are you most passionate about?
- Describe a service project that has been meaningful to you.
- Please describe a time that you have been the recipient of service.
- Why do you feel called to serve others?
- Please describe the community service projects that you have completed in the past are are currently engaged in. Why are they important to you?
- What motivates you to do service? When or how did this begin?
- What attributes are most important for someone who participates in service?

Commitment to Campus

- What attracted you to want to apply to this university?