Graduate School Interview

Note to Interviewer: Invite an observing student to ask questions with you; ask student to tell you the type of program that they are imaging as they do this interview.

Opening Questions

So tell us a little about yourself?
(speak to major, research interests, brief about research/teaching experience)

What are you interested in studying?

How come a PhD/MA/MSW? (short-term and long-term goals)

Tell me about a book or article that you have read recently.

Looking for Funding-Related Matches

What kind of (Tell me more about your) research experiences?

What kinds of team projects have you been involved in and how did that go?

What about teaching... have you had any opportunities to teach?

Character/Strengths Match with that of Graduate Study -- Do you know yourself

What other skills and experiences do you have that you think will help you complete your degree?

How would your professors describe you as a student in their classrooms?

What would a professor who knows you well say is your strength? Weakness?

Tell me about a situation where you made a mistake and how you handled that?

Tell me about a situation where you showed initiative.

How do you deal with stress?

Anything that you are worried about in entering our graduate program?

What would you bring to your cohort and our program?
Have you Done your Homework -- Strength of Match with Program

Why our program? What are you looking for in a graduate program?

What would you like to know about our graduate program and our faculty?

What other programs have you applied to?

What did you like about your undergraduate experience? What did you not like?

Your Questions (some of this may be found on their web site... check first)

Admissions

How are graduate test scores, grades, letters of recommendations, and personal statements evaluated for the admissions process?

What is the selection timeline? When will candidates be notified about their acceptance into the program and funding?

Funding and Employment

What types of funding are available? How many students in each cohort are funded? How do you make those funding decisions.

Where are recent alumni employed? What do most graduates do after graduation?

What opportunities are available for other work with research centers or other offices on campus that typically hire graduate students from your program? How and when would I apply?

Typical Graduate Students

What types of research projects are current students pursuing?

Do most students publish an article prior to graduation?

How long does it take typically to complete the program?

What is the graduate student community like here?

About the faculty

I've read articles written by ________ and __ -- ____. To what extent were students involved in these or other faculty research?