

Interview Experience

Aidan Sharpe

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I have found that there is only so much you can do to prepare for a technical interview, at least in the short term. Of course, maintaining fundamentals is always helpful. When it comes to behavioral interviews, there is much more preparation work to be done. In behavioral interviews, the most important aspect is simply raw interview skills, and the best way to get good at interviewing is through practice. When I was preparing for interviews this Fall, I asked my Aunt, who conducts behavioral interviews as part of her job, if we could set up a mock interview, and she happily agreed. Importantly, at the end, I asked for feedback and took notes.

In addition to being prepared for the act of interviewing, it is important to come in knowledgeable about the position you are interviewing for. For example, when I was interviewing for a job at SpaceX, I researched the different projects associated with that job. Fortunately, with SpaceX being a company in the public spotlight, there were multiple Wikipedia articles about the projects that proved to be valuable resources.

When it actually came to the behavioral interviews, I was glad that I did my research, because it helped me answer questions like “why do you want to work here?” and “what skills do you think you can bring to this role?” with details more specific to the company and role.

When it comes to technical interviews, however, it is important to take your time and carefully explain your thought process. Most of the time, as long as you have sound reasoning and show significant understanding, it does not matter if you get the exact correct answer.