

# Various Questions that Might Be Asked During a Public Health Sciences Interview

## General Questions

1. Give me three words that best describe you.
2. What are your short-term goals, within 5 years?
3. What are your long-term goals, within 10 years?
4. What are your strengths?
5. Do you work better in groups or independently? Explain.
6. What areas can you improve?
7. How do you process new information, internally or externally?
8. How do you handle stress?
9. Do you consider yourself logical or emotional? Why?
10. How do you handle failure? What have you learned from your failures?
11. Do you see yourself as a leader or a follower? Explain.
12. Do you speak any additional languages?
13. Do you work better alone or with someone?
14. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
15. Why did you apply to this job/internship?
16. What is your career goal?
17. Describe a mistake you made at work, how you fixed it, and what you learned from it.
18. What type of quantitative experience has your experience taught you?
19. Why are you interested in the field of research?
20. What is your take on bioterrorism? How does the work of an epidemiologist help?
21. What areas of work are you most proficient in?

## University/Performance-Related Questions

1. Discuss a successful outcome from a volunteer project you have been involved with.
2. Explain a time when you worked on a team. What was your role and what did you learn about yourself from the experience?
3. What activities are you presently involved in at your University? Looking at your field experiences, which one did you learn the most from? Explain.
4. Explain previous work experiences. Of all the jobs you have held, which one did you like best and why?
5. Discuss any lab experiences you have had and what expertise you could bring to our company.
6. What is your favorite class in college and why?
7. Explain a time you had to demonstrate flexibility.
8. What are some of your great accomplishments?
9. Describe your computer skills. What are other information technologies do you know?
10. How do you resolve conflict in a group setting?
11. What does networking mean to you? How does it enhance your professional abilities?

12. What are your hobbies/extracurricular activities?
13. How do you educate others in your school environment?
14. If you are having difficulties, how do you obtain help?
15. When you are given multiple tasks, how do you decide which one to do first?
16. Why did you choose to study Public Health?

### **Biostatistics and Epidemiology**

1. Why are you interested in this (research/biostatistician/epidemiologist) position?
2. What puts you above other candidates for this program?
3. What do you feel your role will be throughout the program? How do you feel about being an intern?
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, rate how appealing this program is to you. Explain why. What is unappealing and what would you change about our program?
5. What questions do you have for us in regards to our program?
6. What are the roles of a (biostatistician/epidemiologist)?
7. What unique qualities can you bring to this program? What do you have to offer?
8. How do you plan to handle criticism?
9. How do you feel about working more than an 8-hour day, if so needed?
10. What is your research experience and how have your studies prepared you for this position?
11. Do you think an internship is important for your studies? Why?
12. Explain what epidemiology/biostatistics is and what are the regular duties that they do?
13. Explain the difference between endemic, epidemic, and pandemic.
14. What is the approach that epidemiologists take to prevent a disease?

### **Community Health**

1. What are your community involvements?
2. Describe an experience where you advise clients or community groups on issues related to improving general health, such as diet or exercise.
3. In your opinion, how hard is it to report incidences of child or elder abuse, neglect, or threats of harm to authorities? Share an experience, if you have one

### **Health Management, Promotion and Communication**

1. Have you ever been in a management position? Describe it.
2. Explain a time you had to demonstrate flexibility.
3. What field experience do you have for a health promotion and communication officer position?

## **Social and Behavioral Health**

1. What techniques do you use in crisis intervention?
2. What are your opinions on the current welfare system?
3. What is your theoretical orientation regarding family therapy?

## **Maternal and Child Health**

1. What do you know about WIC?
2. Share an effective method you have used to counsel individuals and groups on good nutrition, eating habits, and/or nutrition monitoring.
3. In the healthcare services industry there are many emotions in a day. Have your emotions ever been in the way of your productivity?
4. Tell me about your healthcare related education and training.

## **Typical Grad school Interview Questions**

1. Walk me through a significant project (research or other) that you carried out.
2. What do you think is the most pressing problem(s) facing public health today?
3. If you were working with a team in country x, and you were tasked with determining the most cost-effective screening strategy for disease y, how would you go about solving the problem?
4. Give an example of a health outcome and explain how the built environment can influence it?
5. Why did you decide to pursue graduate studies in public health?