



# Interview Workshop

# Annual Actuarial Career Expo



25+ companies



At Michigan Union



September 21, 12-3 PM



Companies choose interview day



Resume book closes 9/13 at midnight

# Annual Actuarial Career Expo

Festifall, but  
with  
companies



You need to  
make the first  
approach



**Need an elevator pitch  
and interview skills**

Freshman + Sophomores w/o Exam = Use Expo to network  
Juniors + Seniors = Use Expo to find jobs

# Topics for Today

- ◎ Elevator Pitch
  - Sell yourself in 30-60 seconds
- ◎ Interview Prep
  - Behavioral
  - Industry/Company
  - Brain Teaser
  - Case Study
- ◎ Post Interview
  - Thank you notes
  - Second round interviews

# Elevator Pitch (resume highlights)

- ◎ “Hello, my name is...”
  - Major, exams, class standing, hometown
  - Firm handshake, good eye contact
- ◎ Background on your work experience
  - Highlight skills, rather than events
- ◎ Background on the rest of your life
  - Be a person, not a robot!
  - These are actuaries, they are like you
- ◎ Provide copy of resume

# Practice Time!

- ◎ Take one minute to write down a pitch.
- ◎ Anyone want to share?



# Continuing the Conversation: Asking Questions

Goal: Show you are interested in the company (**curiosity**) but also that you already possess some background knowledge (**initiative**)

## General Questions

Could you tell me about your company?

What is your day-to-day job like?

How did you get involved in this career path?

What advice can you give me as I begin my actuarial career?

## Additional

Furthering career exploration

Improving questions with industry knowledge



**DO NOT ASK ABOUT COMPENSATION!!**

# Could you tell me about your company?

- ⊙ What do you like most about this company?
- ⊙ How does your company differ from its competitors?
- ⊙ What does the company do to contribute to its employees' professional development?
- ⊙ What leadership opportunities are available for interns/new hires?
- ⊙ What tasks/projects would an intern work on?
- ⊙ What is the internship experience like
- ⊙ Does your company give exam study hours?



# What is your day-to-day job like?

- ⦿ Could you describe a typical day?
- ⦿ What do you do? What are the duties/functions/responsibilities of your job?
- ⦿ What kinds of problems do you deal with?
- ⦿ What kinds of decisions do you make?
- ⦿ What skills are required to successfully do your job?
- ⦿ What percentage of your time is spent doing what?
- ⦿ How does the time use vary? Are there busy and slow times or is the work activity fairly constant?

# How did you get involved in this career path?

- ⊙ How did this type of work interest you and how did you get started?
- ⊙ What are the most important personal satisfactions and dissatisfactions connected with your occupation? What part of this job do you personally find most satisfying? Most challenging? What do you like and not like about working in this industry?
- ⊙ What things did you do before you entered this occupation? Which have been most helpful?
- ⊙ How did you get your job? What jobs and experiences have led you to your present position?
- ⊙ Why did you decide to work for this company?
- ⊙ Why did you choose insurance/consulting?

# What advice can you give me as I begin my actuarial career?

- ① What are the skills that are most important for a position in this field?
- ① What particular skills or talents are most essential to be effective in your job? How did you learn these skills? Did you enter this position through a formal training program?
- ① What courses have proven to be the most valuable to you in your work? What would you recommend to me?
- ① Is there any exam advice you can give me? Preferred study materials? Studying in school vs. studying while working?

# Furthering Career Exploration

General Question: Are there **written materials** or other professional such as yourself that you could refer to that would **further assist me in my career exploration**?

- ⊙ Is there anyone else I can speak with to learn more about your company?
- ⊙ Are there any written materials you suggest I read?
- ⊙ Which professional journals and organizations would help me learn more about this field?
- ⊙ How do you expect the industry to change in the next 5-10 years?

# Improving Questions with Industry Knowledge

**Before:**

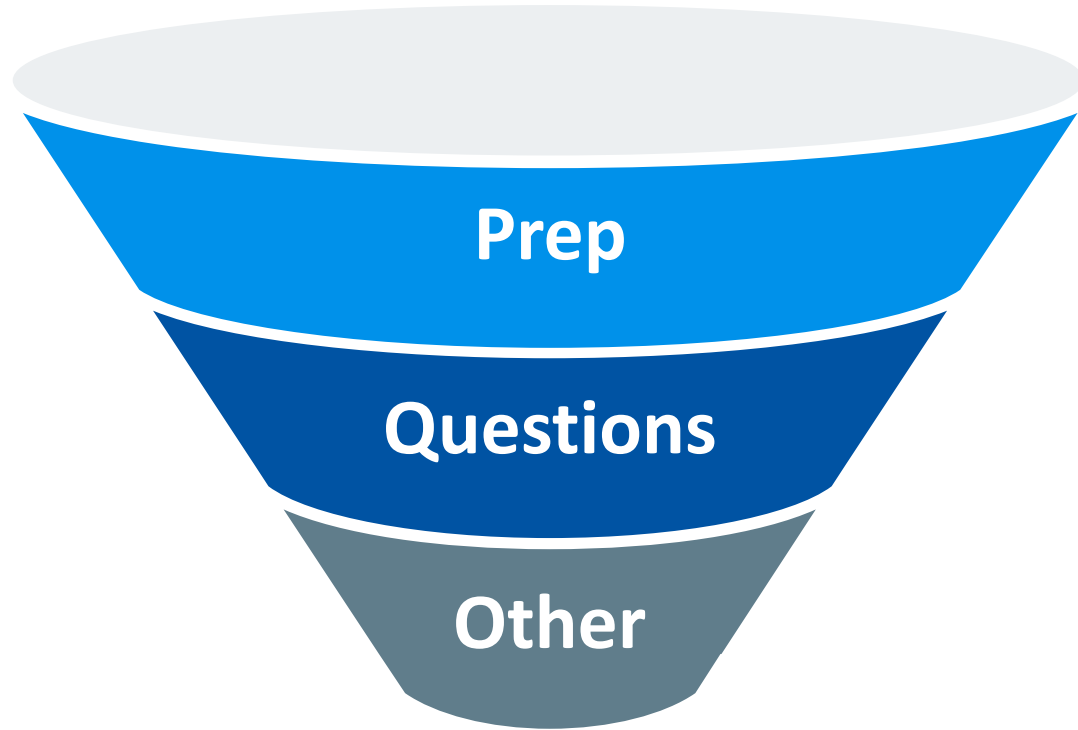
What is the internship experience like?



**After:**

I've read about your internship program on your website.  
Can you elaborate on x, y, and z?

**So, you got yourself an interview**



# Interview: Prep

- ◎ Arrange SAM Mock Interviews to practice answering basic questions:
  - Tell me about yourself?
  - Why do you want to be an actuary?
- ◎ Research the company (visit company website)
  - What type of insurance/consulting?
  - Where are they located?
  - What makes them unique?
  - Research their internship program & interviewers?
  - Read articles about the company & industry
- ◎ Formulate questions (see previous slides)
  - Should help you decide if company is the right fit

# Practice Time!

- ◎ Why do you want to be an actuary?
- ◎ Partner up, and let's practice!

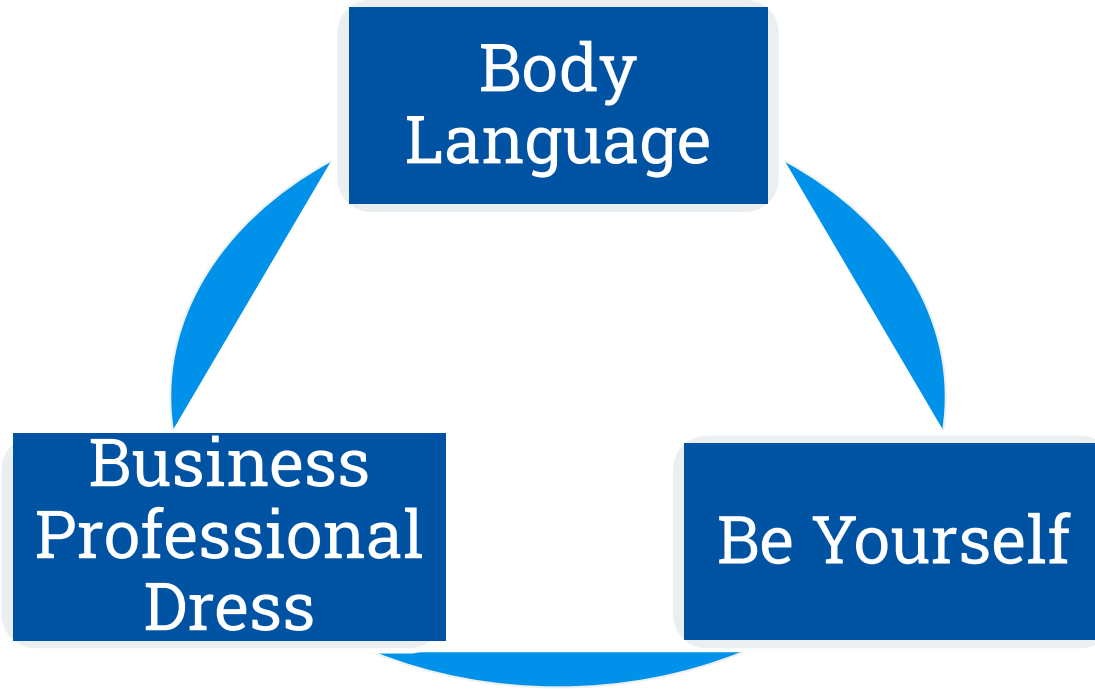




# Interview: Questions

- ⦿ Behavioral
  - “What’s your biggest weakness?”
  - Speak naturally, have good flow to the conversation
- ⦿ Brain Teasers
  - “How many cars are parked outside of the Big House on gameday?”
  - They want to see your logical thought process, not the final answer
  - Take a second to think!
- ⦿ Industry Knowledge
  - “Is there a particular type of insurance you are interested in the most? Why?”
  - They want to see if you have any industry knowledge
  - If you’re interviewing with a health company, choose health!
- ⦿ Case Studies (usually asked by consulting companies)
  - SAM Case Study Workshop will cover this

## Additional Info



# HireVue: Interview Alternative

## What is HireVue?

- Online video interviewing platform used by employers in first-round interviews
- You will be provided instruction videos prior to your assessment. For each question, there will be a video explaining the question. You will have time to plan your answer, then 1 or 2 chances to record your answer. You don't need to use all the time given.

## Which employers use HireVue?

- EY, Mercer, and many financial firms

## What is the best way to prepare to do well?

- Because it's not interactive, it's possible to use notes during your video recording. Do thorough research about the company, then jot down bullets on why you want to work for them and why you are a good fit for the role.
- Maintain eye contact with the camera. While it's okay to occasionally look at your notes that you prepared by your screen, make sure you look at the camera and smile as much as you can. Be confident!
- Read the question. Take your time to read each question carefully, then organize your thoughts. Planning is important!

# Post Interview

## Thank You Note

- See Thank You Note Handout
- Send within 24-48 hours

## Second Round Interview

- Attend Second Round Interview Workshop
- Skype, Phone, In-Person

## Continue Networking

- Attend Post Career Fair Recruiting Workshop
- Build your network



# Thanks!

## Any questions?

### **SIGN UP FOR MOCK INTERVIEWS!!!!!!**

