

CoRPs Interviewing: Preparation, Training and Resources



Vanderbilt University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Training topics include:

- Goals of the interview
- Interview guidelines
- Interview questions
- Interview reports
- Important dates
- Resources

Goals of the Interview

The student should feel good about Vanderbilt by the end of the interview.

1. Get to know the student as well as possible, particularly regarding intriguing passions or intellectual pursuits.
2. Answer questions that the student has about Vanderbilt.
3. Highlight parts of Commodore life which may be relevant to the student.
4. Represent Vanderbilt in a positive, interesting light.

Interview Guidelines

- Always meet in a public space, such as a coffee shop.
- Set a relaxed, conversational tone.
- Stay away from “yes” or “no” questions.
- If a parent accompanies the student, ask that the parent sit elsewhere during the interview, and offer to answer the parent’s questions after the interview.
- Stay current with Commodore happenings via our website where you can find news on everything Vanderbilt: www.vanderbilt.edu
- Remember to use non-political language and be aware of the way your language or tone may be perceived by prospective students and their families

Interviewing Questions

Sample Questions

Beginning the interview:

- Ask the student for their full legal name and email address as provided on the Common Application.
- How did you hear about Vanderbilt?
- Have you visited the campus yet? What did you like most about your visit?
- Tell me about your favorite book/movie?
- As you think about attending Vanderbilt, what are you most excited about?

Interviewing Questions

Additional Sample questions

- What has been the most enjoyable activity for you outside of your coursework?
- What accomplishments are you most proud of?
- How has your participation in an extracurricular activity helped shape who you are today?
- What's your favorite subject?
- What new subjects would you like to pursue in college?
- What would you like to be doing in 10 years? How will Vanderbilt help get you there?
- How do you see yourself contributing to the Vanderbilt community?
- What would you like the Admissions Office to know about you?

Interviewing Questions

Topics to avoid:

- Colleges other than Vanderbilt that the applicant may be considering.
- Whether or not Vanderbilt is the applicant's first choice.
- Test scores such as the SAT or ACT, class rank, or GPA.
- Applicant's financial situation or whether they will be applying for aid, other than to speak about Vanderbilt's excellent financial aid opportunities, should the student ask.

Interview Questions

Steps for concluding your interview:

- Always ask the student if he/she has any additional questions.
- Explain that you will submit a report on behalf of the student.
- Wish the student a good rest of their senior year.
- Relay to the student that any unanswered questions they have will be included in the interview report, but explain that s/he is always welcome to contact the admissions office or financial aid office for assistance.

Interview Reports

- Interview reports are confidential – the student will not be given access to the reports. We expect an honest, respectful assessment of the student.
- Interview reports should be completed and submitted using the online CoRPs Interviewing Report Form.
- Please write the interview report as quickly as possible after the interview, no later than 2 weeks after the interview.
- The reports are most helpful when they include information about the student that is likely not in the admission file.

Interview Reports

Interview report examples:

- Instead of “Johnny will be a great fit for Vanderbilt”, write:
 - “Johnny is obviously passionate about getting involved in his church. Even though he has not served in a leadership role, he has spent countless hours helping his youth group take meals to elderly residents in the community. He talks about this like it is a calling and said that he knows that there are a lot of service opportunities at Vanderbilt.”

Interview Report

Interview report examples:

- Instead of “Susie loves both math and English and wants to be an engineer”, write:
 - “Susie talks about her academic life in a really interesting way. She told me that she has always loved math but that she also seeks out ways to write for her school newspaper. She said she’s known as the ‘math geek’ but what she really likes is writing. I asked her what she thinks she may want to study at Vanderbilt and she said she likes VU because she can be part of the engineering program and still take advantage of Vanderbilt’s great English department. She seems to have really done her research on Vanderbilt.”

Important Dates

Students must submit applications for admission by the following dates:

- Early Decision I: November 1, 2010
- Early Decision II: January 3, 2011
- Regular Decision: January 3, 2011

Students must request an interview by the following dates:

- Early Decision I applicants: November 6, 2010
- Early Decision II applicants: January 8, 2011
- Regular Decision applicants: January 15, 2011

CoRPs Interviewers must submit reports by the following dates:

- For Early Decision I applicants: November 20, 2010
- For Early Decision II applicants: January 22, 2011
- For Regular Decision applicants: February 12, 2011

Resources

- CoRPs Main Website: <http://admissions.vanderbilt.edu/undergraduate-alumni-recruitment.php>
- Alumni Registration: http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/site/jziTO8/corps_volunteer_alumni
- Alumni Interview Report: [http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/site/eh8znO/CoRPs Interviewing Report](http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/site/eh8znO/CoRPs_Interviewing_Report)
- Student Interview Site: <http://admissions.vanderbilt.edu/corps-interview>

Contacts

For assistance with CoRPs interviewing, please contact the CoRPs team at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions:

- CoRPs Team General Contact, corps@vanderbilt.edu , <http://admissions.vanderbilt.edu/undergraduate-alumni-recruitment.php>, 615.322.8286
- Dustin Lynn, CoRPs Interviewing, dustin.lynn@vanderbilt.edu, 615.343.3000
- Jennifer Grell, CoRPs Support, jennifer.grell@vanderbilt.edu, 615.343.8286

We appreciate all that you do to recruit great students for Vanderbilt University!



THANK YOU!