Questions You May Be Asked by an Interviewer

Tell me about yourself. (Keep it short and relevant)

When did you know you wanted to be a nurse?

Why did you choose to specialize in _________________?

What are your strongest skills? (Back up answers with specific examples.)

How would you describe yourself? How would a preceptor or colleague describe you?

Tell me about the most difficult clinical experience you’ve faced and how you handled it.

What do you consider the most important qualities a nurse practitioner (or nurse) needs to do this job successfully?

What did you like best/least in your clinical experiences?

How did you motivate a resistant patient to comply with your instructions?

What are your strengths/weaknesses?

Why are you interested in working for us?

What gives you the most satisfaction as a nurse? Why?

Where do you see yourself in five years? (You may wish to answer this in terms of skills acquired.)

What two or three things are most important to you in your job?

What are some characteristics of the best nurse that you know?

What do you think is the most significant problem in health care today?

What do you see as the major issues facing us in the future?

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

How do you relieve stress?

What would you do if ______? (Sites/clinical situation; here the interviewer is looking for your judgment and maturity in handling complex situations.)

… your charge nurse says, “Everything is quiet here. I’m going to sleep for a few hours.”

… in your first job out of school you are paired with a nursing assistant who refuses to do something you ask her to help with.

… three patients need to be taken care of. One is elderly and confused. The second is one day post-op and ready to discharge. The third needs to be prepped for surgery. Who do you prioritize and why?

Describe the best/worst supervisor you ever had.

What are your salary requirements?

Why should we hire you? (Be ready for this one. Even if it's not asked directly, the answer to this should be thread throughout all your responses.)

Do you have any questions for me?