

Trinity College
2010 Interview Questions for Senior Exit Interviews

*Enter the ID number on the sheet of learning goals used in the interview.
Be certain to release the HOLD button and start the recording.
Say the ID number at the beginning of the recording.*

This is an interview with you as you leave Trinity. It is a chance for you to reflect on your college career, how you have changed, and where you are going. It also gives the college a better understanding of how you experienced your time here and help us identify ways we can make the college experience more rewarding for other students.

What you say will be confidential, although obviously not anonymous. Students will be given pseudonyms, and neither your name nor mine will appear on transcripts or in reports. I'd like to record our conversation so I can pay attention to what you say and not have to take detailed notes. Okay?

BEGINNINGS

1. I would like you to think back to just before you arrived on campus for your Orientation at the beginning of your first year.

1.a. What did you think “going to college” would be like?

Possible probes: What did you think your academic experience would be like in and out of class? What did you think life in the residence halls would be like? What did you think social life at Trinity would be like? What activities did you expect to get involved in? What did you anticipate you would do after graduating from Trinity?

1.b. Now that you are about to graduate, in what ways has your life at Trinity been like you expected?

1.c. What has surprised you about Trinity and your experiences here?

Possible probes: What about academic life? Social life? Your own development?

2. Can you tell me about a goal you set for yourself when you came to Trinity?

Possible probes: finding a field of interest, exploring new topics, developing certain skills.

a. Why was this goal important to you?

b. How did you pursue it?

c. Did it change? How did it change?

d. Tell me about a situation in your life ... a story ... that illustrates how this goal changed.

ACADEMICS

3. In what field(s) have you majored?

3.a. How did you come to concentrate in this (these)?

Possible probes: Did you know when you came what you wanted to major in? Did you consider any other areas? What role did faculty play in your decision?

3.b. Are you happy with your choice(s)?

Possible probes: Have you found your major(s) intellectually challenging? How[does it/do they] fit into your career plans and personal goals?

4. What about advising—in your first year and in your major? What did you expect your advisors to do for you? What did you get?

Possible probes: Did you always know when you needed advice? Could you have used more guidance? In what areas?

a. How would you describe the ideal academic advisor?**5. While you've been here, have you been involved in academic work that you cared a great deal about, that really excited you?**

Possible probes: Have you been really excited about a project, either for a course or otherwise? Can you tell me about it? How did you get involved with this project? Did you have other ones like it?

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**6. How have you experienced campus life outside the classroom?**

Possible probes: Has it been rewarding, fun, challenging, difficult, frustrating?

7. In which activities or aspects of campus and community life have you been involved?

Possible probes: student organizations, athletics, volunteer service, Greek societies, the Fred

a. What was the experience in these activities like?**b. What did you gain from them?****STUDY AWAY****8. Did you spend time studying away from Hartford?**

If yes: How did your study away experiences affect or change you?

a. Tell me about a situation ... a story ... that illustrates the impact of your off-campus experience.**b. How was it to come back to Trinity?****LEARNING GOALS**

As you may know, the faculty recently identified 10 Learning Goals that should be the hallmark of a Trinity education. Here's a sheet listing these 10 goals. Please take a couple minutes to indicate the extent to which you feel you have achieved each of these. Then I'll ask you a couple questions about some of them.

9. Looking over your responses, which 2 or 3 do you think you have come closest to achieving?

Write down the 2 or 3 listed so you can ask about each in turn.

9.a. For [first goal mentioned], what experiences, activities, or people at Trinity have been most significant in helping you achieve this goal?

Possible probes: Courses, assignments, research or work experiences, extra-curricular activities

In what ways have they contributed to the goal

9.b. Repeat these questions for the one or two other goals that were achieved significantly.**10. Looking at the list again, on which 2 or 3 have you made the least progress?**

Write down the 2 or 3 listed so you can ask about each in turn.

10.a. For [first goal mentioned], what do you think Trinity could have done to help you more?**10.b. Repeat this question for the one or two other goals on which little progress was made.****COLLECT THE COMPLETED FORM.****LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD****11. How are you a different person today than when you first came to Trinity?**

Possible probes: changes in values and beliefs, likes/dislikes, ways of relating to people, behaviors, assumptions about life, world view, etc.

a. Tell me about a situation in your life that illustrates how you have changed.

b. What are the experiences or circumstances that led to these changes?

c. What part have other people played in these changes?

Possible probes: Administrative staff? Faculty? Students? Others?

12. How well prepared do you feel for the next stage in your life?

Possible explanations: For what you plan to do next year or in the longer term

a. How has Trinity contributed to this?

Possible probes: What skills have you gained that you will draw on? What knowledge have you gained that you will draw on? How did your experience at Trinity contribute to you choosing this path?

Probe for more than one way.

b. Are there areas in which you wish Trinity had prepared you, but didn't?

13. Ten years from now, what college events or experiences will you remember as having shaped you in important ways?**14. Is there anything else I should have asked you that would help me understand your experience here?****15. Is there anything you want to ask me?**

Interview Summary

To be completed after the interview has concluded and the student has left the room.

ID:	
Date:	
Length of interview:	

1. How would you describe the interviewee’s overall attitude about college life at the moment: content, frustrated, discouraged, apprehensive, relaxed, etc.?

2. How would you rate the overall quality of the interview? Did the interviewee provide lots of interesting detail or very little? Circle one.

Little interesting detail	Some interesting detail	Lots of interesting detail
------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------

Was there anything notable about the interview itself? Rapport with the interviewee, the setting, difficulty with the recorder, etc.?

3. Did the interviewee say something noteworthy/interesting in response to one or more of the interview questions? What questions did he/she provide interesting detail, if any?

Question number and/or question topic:	Jot down 3-4 words about what was said: