

# Interview Basics

**Resources:**

**The Associate Dentist Job  
Interview (ETS Dental):**

<http://tinyurl.com/zh6zy3m>

**Associate Dentist Interview Tips  
(ETS Dental):**

<http://tinyurl.com/h78lxck>

**Below are some general interview tips:**

- Bring a mental or written list of procedures you've completed. Be careful to be too general in your explanations. It is better to be specific about the number and type. (i.e. 15 fixed prosth procedures including implant crowns, bridges, and single unit crowns) You may want to bring an actual list or log of the procedures you've completed as well as before and after photos.
- Have specific cases or situations ready which can provide examples. Think back to challenging situations or times when things didn't go quite as planned. How did you cope or what solution did you employ to resolve things? (This applies to situations in the clinic as well as with leadership positions and other roles.)
- Review possible questions and plan ahead for how to answer them. [This tip guide from UCLA](#) provides a great list of potential interview questions. Also, make sure you have questions prepared to ask them. These questions should be specific and should signal that you've done your research ahead of the interview.
- Be clear about the things you need/want from a position. While it's fine to be somewhat agreeable in an interview, you want to be honest about your needs and interests to ensure that you are a compatible match for the practice and position. All too often interviewees agree to things in an interview that they end up unhappy about once they are in the position. Yes, you want the job, but not at the sacrifice of things you need/want to be happy in your career.
- Be prepared to talk about your long term plans and goals.
- Ask about the level of "mentorship" that will be available to you. While you don't want to appear that you aren't comfortable working independently, you can let the employer know that you are confident in your ability to utilize the skills and experience you gained while in dental school, but are hopeful that you will continue to learn and gain new skills by working closely with them and/or with experienced dentists in the practice.
- Be positive and optimistic! Remember what drove your initial passion for dentistry and speak proudly about your profession and accomplishments.
- Be forthcoming with information. You don't always have to wait for questions from your interviewer. The best interviews are more like conversations than question and answer sessions. Your interviewer will be gauging your ability to initiate conversation and how at ease you seem in the situation since this tells them a lot about your people skills and how you will interact with patients.
- Consider your preferences for things like: work schedule (including weekends/evenings), expectations for patient numbers, salary, benefits, etc. While a lot of specifics will be outlined in the contract (which you will have time to review before signing), it might be wise to review the [Contract Considerations tip guide](#) before the interview so that you are prepared to discuss these topics if they come up.
- Send a follow up email (or note) to thank them for their time and consideration. If possible, personalize the thank you by mentioning something you learned in the interview or through your conversation.