

Preparing for the Visa Interview:

The U.S. Department of State issues visas at U.S. embassies and consulates. The visa application process includes an interview with a U.S. Department of State representative, or consular officer. This interview is your opportunity to tell the consular officer **about your plans while in the United States** and **what you will do when you have completed your studies**.

Some tips to practice as you prepare for the interview:

Step 1: Gather all the documentation you need to take to the interview.

This is one of the most important steps in your preparation for the interview. During the visa interview you must present enough evidence for you to get a visa. Some of the documents you must present include: your visa application, seminary acceptance letter and I-20 for, as well as evidence that you have enough money to support yourself. You can also include guarantors, like your parents, who will help you support yourself while you are abroad.

Step 2: Visualize yourself at the Interview:

Picture yourself at an interview counter. At the interview, you should dedicate your full attention to the officer or the translator. Make sure to listen carefully, think before you answer and keep your answers short and to the point. You can research online the most common questions at the visa interviews to prepare yourself and your answers.

Step 3: Prepare an explanation.

It is important to prepare an explanation for some of the most common visa interview questions. Common questions can include: why you want to go to Asbury Seminary, what you are going to study, what are your career goals after you graduate, how you intend to use the education you receive in the United States when you return home, and other similar questions.

Step 4: Talk about ties to your home country.

The officers at the embassy or consulate will often ask about the ties to your home country. This is done to make sure that you have enough things that hold you back and that you will eventually come back to your home country. Typically, these include: your job or business, family, property you may own, or anything else you can think of. Carry documents that will prove your strong ties in your home country.

Step 5: Be clear that you will return to you home country after graduation.

This is important, so make sure to reiterate this point and illustrate a few examples that you are planning on coming back to your home country after graduating.

Step 6: Stay positive.

Be confident, stay calm and smile. Project a positive and confident image, and you will have a successful student visa interview.

Please review this Homeland Security Webpage to receive some additional guidelines:
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/06/five-ways-prepare-your-visa-interview>