

## Collection of Questions from SMU Alum

Highlighted questions = most commonly asked questions

### General Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself and why you want to work at \_\_\_\_\_? (SHC/LPCH) (VASF) (Alameda CMC) (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
2. Walk me through your resume (Tell me about yourself). (UCLA OR)
3. Why did you decide to go into nursing after you had already completed a BA? (SHC/LPCH) (Dameron)
4. Why do you want to be a nurse? (San Joaquin GH)
5. Why are you changing careers to nursing? (Dameron)
6. Can you tell me about your \_\_\_\_\_ internship (AKA the reason that you left your job) in the year \_\_\_\_\_? (UCLA OR)
7. Why (whatever your major in college was or your career path)? (UCLA L&D)
8. Why/ how did you get into your previous career or job? (UCLA L&D)
9. What work did you do at your previous career or job? (UCLA L&D)
10. From your resume, it looks like you are more suited for research – why not research? (UCLA OR)
11. Why do you want to be a pediatric nurse? (UCLA Peds)
12. Why do you want to work at this hospital? (Kaiser OAK ED) (Alameda CMC)
13. How and why did you select our hospital to interview with? (Alameda CMC)
14. What department do you want to work in? (SHC/LPCH) (Alameda CMC)
15. What area of nursing are you interested in specializing and why? (San Joaquin GH)
16. Why do you want to work on this unit? (Kaiser SC Peds)
17. Why do you want to work in the OR? (UCLA OR)
18. What makes you a unique fit for this program/hospital?
19. How could you contribute to this hospital? (Alameda CMC)
20. What sets you apart from other candidates? (SHC/LPCH)
21. What qualities could you bring to the unit? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
22. What are your strengths and weaknesses? (SHC/LPCH) (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
23. Where do you see yourself in 5-years? 10-years? (SHC/LPCH) (Dameron) (UCLA OR)
24. What is the preparation and experience you have obtained in an Accelerated BSN program? (Dameron)
25. What have you done to prepare yourself for nursing? (SHC/LPCH)
26. What have you been doing other than school?
27. How has your previous experience prepared you for nursing?
28. What have you been doing to prepare yourself for nursing? I see you have a lot of volunteer experience. (UCLA L&D)
29. What have you been doing since graduation? (UCLA OR)
30. What is the proudest achievement in your life? (Kaiser OAK ED)(UCLA Peds)
31. If you could think back to one day in nursing school that was your best day, what day would it be and why? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
32. Give an example from your nursing education that profoundly affected you or changed your attitude toward nursing. (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
33. What is the most significant/life-changing experience that you have had in Nursing School? (UCLA OR)
34. What was your favorite thing about your nursing program? (UCLA OR)
35. If someone were to look at your facebook page, what would they think about you? (Kaiser OAK ED)
36. If we interviewed people who have been your patient before in the hospital, what would they say about you? (Kaiser OAK ED)
37. If I were to talk to your peers, what would they say about you? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
38. If I called your previous place of employment what would I say about you? (UCLA L&D)
39. What type of person do you find difficult to get along with? (Alameda CMC)
40. Describe what kind of leader you are. (UCLA OR)
41. Communication is very important in the OR. Would you say you have good communication skills? (UCLA OR)
42. How do you feel about taking orders from another nurse, physician or management? (Alameda CMC)
43. What do you think a hospital owes its employees? (Alameda CMC)

44. How long would you envision yourself in this position before you got bored (or burned out)? (Alameda CMC)
45. How far do you think you can go in this hospital? (Alameda CMC)
46. Our hospital has a policy of daily rounds/one on one conferences with each patient, what does that concept mean to you? (San Joaquin GH)
47. Are you willing to work night shift, weekends, and holidays? (San Joaquin GH)
48. Will you relocate? (UCLA L&D)
49. Will you be willing to relocate? How will you handle yourself and stress from work? Will you have support system here in LA/family/friends? (UCLA OR)
50. Name a recent time you laughed at yourself. (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU & OR)
51. What do you like to do in your free time? (UCLA OR)
52. What is your personal philosophy of nursing? (Kaiser OAK ED) (Alameda CMC)(UCLA Peds)
53. Based on your personal experience, how could the health care industry improve? (Alameda CMC)
54. How will you apply the nursing process in your job? (UCLA OR)
55. Tell me about the 'nurse practice act'? (UCLA OR)
56. Tell me what you think a circulating/scrub nurse does? (UCLA OR)
57. What does customer service mean to you? (Alta Bates)
58. What does a teaching hospital mean to you?
59. Mistakes happen. What do you do when you make a mistake? (Kaiser OAK ED)

### **Behavioral Questions:**

1. Give me an example of your most complex pt. & how you provided care for them?(SHC/LPCH)
2. Tell us about the most complex problem you encountered while caring for a patient. Describe the situation, your actions to resolve the problem, and the outcome. (SHC/LPCH)
3. Describe a challenging patient situation. Walk me through your thought process and how you would change something about that situation reflecting on it now?
4. How would you handle a patient who was screaming at you and swearing at you? (Alta Bates)
5. This is something that actually happened on our unit last month: If you had a newly admitted patient from the ED, and started to change them into a gown and realized they were covered in cockroaches, what would you do? (Alta Bates)
6. Tell us about a time you had to choose between conflicting priorities. (SHC/LPCH)
7. Tell me about a time where things changed quickly. How did you react? (VASF)
8. Describe a time when you had to prioritize a patient's care and the outcome. (SHC/LPCH)
9. Tell me about a time where you had to change your nursing action. What were you doing and how did you change to make it work? (VASF)
10. Talk about a time that you made a decision that changed a patient outcome? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
11. Tell us about a time you had to make a decision under pressure? (SHC/LPCH)
12. What would you do if you had a full floor and a new admit was coming in from the ED? (Kaiser SC Peds)
13. Describe a time when you were insufficiently staffed & what you did about it? (SHC/LPCH)
14. Tell me about a time you intervened early to prevent future complications.
15. Describe a time when you found a small problem before it became something bigger. (SHC/LPCH)
16. Give us an example of a time when you noticed a patient's health becoming critical and what you did? (Kaiser OAK ED)
17. Give me an example when you administered compassionate care. (SHC/LPCH)
18. Describe a time when you were a patient advocate, what did you do and what was the result? (SHC/LPCH)
19. Tell me about a time you delegated a task. What was the task, how did you do it, and what was the outcome? (VASF)
20. If you had delegated a nursing assistant to take vital signs on a patient who was receiving a blood transfusion, how would you make sure it got done? (Alta Bates)
21. Tell us about a time you had to perform a new procedure that you weren't comfortable with and what did you do? (SHC/LPCH)
22. Describe an example of a pt. with whom you had differing points of view & what you did about it? (SHC/LPCH)
23. Describe an example of when you questioned a senior nurse or MD, and the outcome. (SHC/LPCH)
24. How would you handle a conflict with a physician, esp. if you disagreed with a medication order?

25. What would you do if the oncoming nurse won't give you report because during the last shift because you as the RN left a lot to do and now the oncoming RN doesn't want to work with you. (UCLA Peds)
26. Tell me about a time when you had conflict in the clinical setting? How did you handle it? (UCLA L&D) (UCLA OR)
27. Have you ever been asked to do something you didn't think was right? If so, describe the situation and how you handled it. (SHC/LPCH)
28. You notice something is not done right in the OR or someone is breaking the rules, what will you do? (UCLA OR)
29. You notice that your co-worker is stealing drugs from the secured cabinet. What would you do? (Alameda CMC)
30. Working with people from diverse backgrounds can be challenging. Tell us about a time when you faced a significant challenge working with people with different backgrounds or cultures. What did you do to meet their needs? (SHC/LPCH)
31. Tell me about a time you had a miscommunication with a peer/coworker – how was it handled? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
32. If you saw a group of nurses who were speaking a different language in front of you, in the hallway near the patients' rooms within earshot, and you don't know if you will understand them or not, what will you do? (SHC/LPCH)
33. How would you handle a coworker who was not pulling their weight? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
34. If I were to ask your peers what your greatest strength is, or what impresses them about you, what would they say? Also, if I were to ask your peers what your biggest challenge is, what would they say? (SHC/LPCH)
35. Can you describe a situation in which you had difficulty getting along with someone at work or school? How did you handle it? (SHC/LPCH)
36. Describe the type of person you would NOT want to be on a team with? (SHC/LPCH)
37. Who was the worst co-worker ever and how did you deal with it? (VASF)
38. Explain a time when you were working with a team and job duties got redistributed. (SHC/LPCH)
39. Tell me about a time when you had to convince people to follow you but they didn't want to. What was the issue, and how did you convince them to go along with it? (VASF)
40. How would you deal with low morale on your unit?
41. Describe a team that you were on that didn't work well. What was the problem was and what you did about it? (SHC/LPCH)
42. Describe a team that you were on that was effective. (SHC/LPCH)
43. Give me an example of when you were part of a well-functioning team, and what was your role or contribution to this high functioning team? (SHC/LPCH)
44. What has been an example from your clinical experience where you led an interdisciplinary team? (SHC/LPCH)
45. After a long day when you're tired, pt. care can suffer. Explain a time when this happened and what did you do about it? (SHC/LPCH)
46. Tell me about a time where you were overwhelmed. How did you handle it? (UCLA ICU/CV-ICU)
47. Describe a time when you were stressed/ frustrated? (SHC/LPCH)
48. Tell us about a time you weren't as effective as you wanted to be? (SHC/LPCH)
49. What have you learned about keeping patients satisfied? Give me a specific example that illustrates how you have used this as a student nurse. (SHC/LPCH)
50. Share an example when you went above and beyond your call of duty? (Kaiser OAK ED)
51. What is a basic respiratory assessment and what are you concerned about with diarrhea? (Kaiser SC Peds)
52. Tell me about a time you made a mistake? (UCLA L&D)

### Scenario Questions:

1. Given a pt description including floor (tele), age (89), condition (pneumonia), meds (IV antibiotics running), VS (HR=85, RR=20, temp=101.4, BP= 189/90, O2sat=89%), other details (decreased bilateral breath sounds, very little family presence throughout hospital stay but did call for updates on pt, pt chooses to stay in bed most of the time)
  - Asked: what are you concerned about with this pt? What are the risks for this pt? What are your goals for this pt? What nursing interventions would you include in the plan of care for this pt? (Dameron)
2. Given brief description of four patient's conditions
  - Asked: in prioritizing care what will be the order in which I see these pts at the start of my shift? What interventions will I include when I go into each pts room? (Dameron)
3. Working a shift on the tele floor, what will I do if I see asystole on the monitor for one of my pts? (Dameron)
4. You are caring for an infant who has an IV and is on oxygen - what will you want to assess? (SFGH NICU)
5. Why do infants have a greater risk for fluid imbalance? (SFGH NICU)
6. You come across a full term infant who is not breathing, what do you do? (SFGH NICU)
7. What are risk factors of cold stress, and what do you want to do when caring for an infant with cold stress? (SFGH NICU)
8. How do you tell if an infant is twitching or if they are seizing? (SFGH NICU)
9. A woman was arrested for public drunkenness. She has a history of crack and meth abuse. She says she has been feeling tired recently and that she has been peeing frequently and she has back pain. What other questions would you ask her? What do you think is wrong with her? (Penitentiary)
10. The guard calls you and tells you he saw an inmate seizing on the floor of his cell for 20 minutes. He says that the inmate was having suicidal thoughts recently. The patient was seen by the hospital doctor and was prescribed wellbutrin recently. What are your first actions as the nurse on duty? What do you think is wrong with this patient? (Penitentiary)
11. A young woman's father has recently died of renal failure that runs in her family. She seems chipper and in a good mood. She says she want to be a famous model. She says she likes to run and eat healthy. She has brittle hair and nails and sallow skin? What do you think is going on with her? (Penitentiary)
12. Describe the difference between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. What is the pathophysiology of diabetes? (Penitentiary)
13. A patient is recovering from a broken mandible in the medical ward at the jail. He has vicodin syrup prescribed for the pain. BP 75/54. HR 50. Temp 98 RR 14. What do you do? Would you give him his next ordered dose of vicodin? (Penitentiary)