Navigating an Interview Meal

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Materials & Skills Workshop

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Workshop Objectives

- Help individuals understand how to approach a lunch or dinner interview.
- Understand basic dining etiquette.
- Allow for questions to surface about how to approach various circumstances.
You will be invited to a “super day” if a company is excited about your qualifications.

- Being invited on-site will allow for them to see if you are a fit for the organization
- Lunches or dinners provide a casual way to see if you are going to fit the culture of the organization
Interview Meal Purpose

This is a time to see how you interact with colleagues, clients, and supervisors. This is still an interview! And it’s your time to get to know the people at the firm.
Before You Dine

Conduct some research on the restaurant and menu.

- You can take a look at the food offerings
- You can see the level of sophistication needed for the interview

Know your interviewers.
While You Dine

Keep in mind that this is still an interview.
• Individuals may ask you formal questions
Dining Etiquette

Napkin.
• Place your napkin on your lap after everyone at your table has been seated
• If you must leave a meal, do so between courses, and place your napkin on your chair or to the left of your plate
• When a meal is completed, place your napkin to the right of your plate – never on the plate
While You Dine

Served.
• Wait for everyone at your table to be served before beginning to eat.
• If an individual who has not been served encourages you to begin eating, you may do so.

Passing.
• Pass "community food" (breadbasket, salt and pepper, and salad dressing) to the right.
• When passing items such as a creamer, syrup pitcher or gravy boat, pass it with the handle pointing toward the recipient.
While You Dine

Eating.

- Don’t slurp
- Don’t cut more than 2 or 3 bites at a time
- Be yourself during these conversations
WHAT HAPPENS IF...

...the wait staff gets my order wrong?

• Major versus minor mistakes
What Happens If…

…I have a food allergy?
What Happens If...

... my interviewers tell me to dress casually?
What Happens If...

... my interviewers order drinks?
After You Dine

After the Meal…

• Write a “thank you” note or email
• Include conversation examples
Questions?

Reach out to us...

careerservices@cmc.edu

CMC Career Services

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