

Prehealth Interview Workshop

9/20/11

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Workshop Overview

- Purpose of the interview
- Types of interviews
- What to expect
- How to prepare

Purpose of the Interview

- Final step in the admissions process
- Determines your fit for the school
- Opportunity to make a positive impression on your application
- Allows candidate to interview the perspective school

Types of Interviews

- One-on-One
- Panel
- Group

Types of Interviews:

Group Interviews

Gauge your ability to relate to, respect, and acknowledge your fellow interviewees.

Tips:

- Make an effort to speak up and respond to the questions posed, but do not monopolize the interview time.
- Acknowledge your fellow interviewees in your response when appropriate. For example: “Like Joe, I was fortunate to spend a summer volunteering in In my experience...”

Who conducts the interview?

- Faculty member(s)
- Physicians
- Admissions staff member(s)
- Student interviewer(s)

Role of the Application in the Interview

- Open file
 - Entire file has been reviewed
- Semi-open file
 - Essay only reviewed
- Closed file

Types of Interview Questions

- Traditional
- Behavioral
- Hypothetical Scenarios
- Current affairs

Traditional Questions

- Factual information is provided
- School takes your word at face value

Sample Questions:

- Tell me about yourself.
- Why did you choose your major?
- What is a weakness you have?

Behavioral Questions

- Assumptions are made about your future performance based on past behaviors and attitudes
- Require concrete, specific examples to reveal skills

Sample Behavioral Questions:

- Give me an example of a challenge you experienced and how you dealt with it.
- Tell me about a time when you exhibited teamwork.

What are schools looking for?

- Maturity
- Leadership
- Compassion
- Commitment
- Social and cultural awareness
- Intellectual curiosity
- Motivation
- Understanding of Profession
- Communication skills
- Fit for school and community

Behavioral Questions

Recommend "**STAR**" framework to structure your responses:

What was the **SITUATION**?

What was your **TASK**?

What **ACTION** did you take?

What was the **RESULT**?

Hypothetical Questions

- Interviewee is requested to analyze a situation and present how s/he would respond.
- Interviewer assesses analytical ability and thought process.
- There are no “right” answers

Hypothetical Questions

Sample Case Scenarios

- If there was an accident on the highway, would you stop to help the victims, knowing that doing so might lead to a malpractice claim against you?
- A patient who has been in an accident needs a blood transfusion. She states that her religion does not allow them. You are the physician in charge. What will you do? Will you override her strong objection? Why/why not?

Current Affairs Questions

- Interviewee is asked a question that refers to a current issue or event
- Interviewer assesses
 - Applicant's familiarity with current affairs relating to healthcare
 - Applicant's ability to discuss a controversial topic with people who s/he may not know and/or understand their individual viewpoint

Current Affairs Questions

Sample Current Event Questions

- What do you think about the idea of universal or public health care?
- What is your opinion of genetic engineering or cloning?
- What do you think is the most pressing issue in health-care today?

Preparing for the Interview

Know yourself

- Motivation
- Opinions
- Skills and abilities
- Unique characteristics
- Strengths
- Weaknesses

Preparing for the Interview

- Review your application materials (activities, essay, etc.)
- Practice interview questions
- Participate in a mock (practice) interview
- Get assistance from your Advisor
- Remain up to date on current health related trends, or controversies
- Keep a journal and record your thoughts after every interview

Preparing for the Interview

Research the medical schools:

- Review school websites
- Investigate curriculum, grading system, special features and available resources
- Talk with current students and alums (ICAN)
- Review First Year Student Surveys
- Attend school visits at MIT
- Prepare questions for each school

Interview Logistics

- Speak with your professors in advance about absences
- Find out the names of interviewers. Research interviewers if possible.
- Acquire appropriate clothing
 - Men: suit or dress pants, shirt, tie and jacket, dress shoes
 - Women: suit (dress or pant) or dress pants and blouse, dress shoes

Interview Logistics (cont.)

- Locate the interview site in advance
- Arrive 10-15 minutes early – take a deep breath and try to relax.
- Turn off your cell phone and throw out your gum.
- Review your application and personal statement while you wait.

Professionalism Tips

- Give a firm handshake.
- Be aware of your body language.
- Sit up straight
- Smile
- Maintain comfortable eye contact

Final Tips

- Articulate your enthusiasm and interest
- Represent yourself positively
- Provide examples to show the interviewer
what you mean or how you developed a skill
- Be yourself

After the Interview

- Ask about the next steps
- Take notes about the experience and what was discussed
- Send a thank you note/letter to your interviewers
- Process the interview experience with your advisor or the GECD

Thank You Notes

Notes/Letters should...

- Reiterate your interest
- Mention specific characteristics about the school
- Indicate something new or different that you learned
- Remind the interviewer of you

Mock Interviews

- Mock Interviews:** Call 617-715-5328 to schedule an appointment.
 - For a video recording of your mock interview, please bring a memory stick or disc to your appointment.
- Prehealth Advisors:** Ask your Prehealth Advisor to conduct a mock interview with you
- MDPhD Candidates:** Review/discuss your research with your supervisor

Health Profession School Interview Resources

- Website:** www.studentdoctor.net (**Note:** This is a student run website, not every interview will be as described on this site and recognize the feedback is subjective.)
- Thirty-Three Questions I Wish I Had Asked**
From the AAMC's Organization of Student
Representatives (OSR)
[http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/about/
31questions.htm](http://www.aamc.org/students/applying/about/31questions.htm)

Good Luck in your interviews!

