

HOW TO ACE THE MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

(Provided by Kaplan)

The Medical Profession is the only profession that requires a personal interview for entry to school. This fact alone should provide a powerful statement as to the importance admissions committees place on your performance at the interview.

Pre-Interview: Be Prepared

- Research the School
- Research the Interviewers
- Scope Out Interview Types

Be aware of the following interview types and prepare yourself for each type. Often you will not know what type of interview you will have until you are in the room. Always keep the following in mind and be prepared for any of the following situations.

- 1) Closed. The interviewer has not been provided with any information except your name.
- 2) Open. The interviewer has been given your information ahead of time.
- 3) Structured. Questions do not vary from applicant to applicant.
- 4) Unstructured. The interviewer asks whatever questions he or she wishes to ask.
- 5) Semi-Structured. The interview has a limited number of questions or criteria and fills in any gaps with chosen questions.
- 6) Traditional/Panel. A traditional interview is one-on-one, whereas panel involves more than one interviewer.

- Be Aware of Current Events in the Medical World
- Know Yourself
 - 1) Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, educational goals, and career goals.
 - 2) Review common interview questions and practice them with another person (see Frequently Asked Interview Questions).

- Logistics
 - 1) Ask for a convenient date
 - 2) Expect the worst!
 - 3) Purchase appropriate clothes
 - 4) Accommodations: Student vs. Hotel

The Interview: Be Confident, Yet Personable

Inevitable, this will be a stressful and nerve-wracking day. Keep your confidence up, and put your best foot forward. If you have prepared, you should be fine! A couple key things to consider:

- Be Overly Punctual. Plan on arriving AT LEAST 15 minutes early.
- Know the Agenda. Know who you are meeting and when.

During the actual interview, the following will be very important:

- Handshake
- Eye Contact
- Poise and Mannerisms
- Prepared Answers
- Ask Questions
- The End

What are they evaluating?

- Intellectual Curiosity
- Communication Skills
- Social Awareness and Skills
- Cultural Competency
- Professional Maturity

After the Interview:

Though your interview is over, your contact with the school should not be. There are a few important things that need to be taken care of.

- Thank-You Notes
- Follow Up

Frequently Asked Questions during an Interview

1. Why do you want to be a doctor?
2. What's the hardest thing that ever happened to you?
3. What's your greatest strength?
4. What's your greatest weakness?
5. Why are you applying to this medical school?
6. Where else have you applied?
7. What do you have that other applicants don't?
8. What do you think of (fetal tissue research)?
9. What's the biggest issue facing medicine today?
10. What will you do if you don't go to medical school?