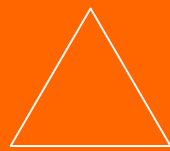
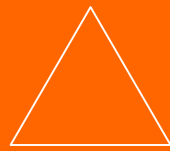


*The Definitive
Guide to*

Successful Interviewing

Tips and Secrets for
Medical School
Admission





Tip One

Plan Ahead



Plan Ahead

“If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.”

-Benjamin Franklin

Interviewing is a skill. Like most things, your proficiency will improve with practice. Ideally, you should begin practicing long before you are even invited for an interview.

- **Practice answering questions-** Become very familiar with the practice questions at the end of this book. Have a friend ask you questions until you are comfortable answering.
- **Read Aloud-** Many people talk too fast, stumble over their words, or mumble when they get nervous. Reading aloud will help you speak clearly with a good tempo. This exercise is especially beneficial if you have an audience.
- **Smile-** People automatically respond more positively to people they perceive as friendly. Even though you may be nervous during your interview, you should strive to project an image of friendliness and likeability. Practice smiling at yourself in the mirror.



Tip Two

Have a Theme



Have a Theme

“Trust is built with consistency”

-Lincoln Chafee

Although you will not know what questions you will be asked during your interview, you should have a plan of what information you would like to share. Admissions committees are looking for candidates with strong positive characteristics like integrity, perseverance, maturity, and empathy. Decide which positive attributes you would like to highlight about yourself before you attend your interview.

- Your theme should be first introduced in your [personal statement](#). During your interview, you will provide further examples and reinforce your theme characteristics. If you are able to show consistency in your written and verbal statements, it will reflect positively on you.
- **Be honest:** It is very important that you are honest about your accomplishments. If you have been invited to interview for medical school admission, you are obviously intelligent and talented. There is no reason to embellish the truth. If the admissions committee discovers that you have been untruthful during your interview, your chances of admission will be very low.
- **Be positive:** Although it is important to be honest, there is no need to discuss the less appealing aspects of yourself. Unless the interview specifically asks about it, do not mention a low grade, disappointing test scores, or other imperfections in your application.



Tip Three

Ask Questions



Ask Questions

*“Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.”
-Voltaire*

There will be many opportunities during your interview day to ask questions. Be prepared to ask questions of everybody you meet during your interview day.

- Asking questions is a vital part of your interview. If you do not ask questions, you may give the impression that you are disinterested in the school and/or a career in medicine.
- Research the program before attending the interview. Whenever possible, ask questions specific to that school/program.
- It is ok to ask different people the same question. It still gives the impression that you are interested. Plus, it will be helpful for you to get perspectives from different sources.
- Write out a few sample questions in a notebook beforehand and take it with you to your interview.

Question ideas

Here are a few sample questions that you could ask during your interview. Be prepared with 6-10 questions for your interview day.

- Do you expect any changes to the program in the near future?
- What do you like most about this school?
- Are there any opportunities for students to become involved in research?
- Is there a student mentoring program?
- Is it possible to accelerate or remediate the curriculum, if necessary?
- How receptive is the program to student feedback regarding the curriculum?
- Is there protected study time?
- How well do students do on the USMLE exams?
- What percentage of students match to their preferred specialty?



Tip Four

**Your Interview Lasts
All Day**



Your Interview Lasts All Day

"The biggest mistake is complacency."

-Bonnie Hammer

When you are invited to interview at a program, you will likely only spend a fraction of your day actually answering questions from an interviewer. The remainder of the time will be filled with tours, presentations, and meet-and-greets with current students. Although you may not be technically "interviewing" during these times, you are still being evaluated.

- **Appear interested:** Although you may not be particularly impressed by the 3rd tour of a lecture hall of the day, do not let your boredom show. If you give the impression that you are disinterested, it will reflect badly on your entire application.
- **Be polite:** Although the other interviewees are your competition, it will do you no favors to be rude to them. Be polite and friendly to everybody you meet on your interview day.
- **Mind your manners:** Use proper table manners during lunch. In addition, avoid foods that are noisy or messy. Although the ability to chew with your mouth closed does not predict your aptitude for medicine, most programs will shy away from candidates who have not mastered basic social graces.



Tip Five

Dress For Success



Dress For Success

“When I'm interviewing someone, I want to make sure that he thought enough to take care of himself - to dress appropriately and to groom himself properly.”

-Bill Rancic

It may seem superficial and cliché, but people really do judge others by their outward appearance. Looking the part will serve you well in your quest to medical school admission.

- Medicine is a very conservative field. Your interview is not a time to experiment with avant-garde fashion. Invest in a good quality business suit- you will have plenty of opportunities to use it as you progress through your medical career.
- Wear comfortable shoes. Your day will involve lots of walking. You do not want to be distracted by pinched toes.
- Bring a notebook and a pen. There will be many times when you will want to take notes.



Bonus

Sample Interview Questions



Common Interview Questions

Although it is impossible to predict what questions you will be asked on your interview, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with some of the more frequently asked questions. Take the time to write out your answers so that you will be comfortable answering these questions when they are inevitably asked during your interview.

- **Tell me about yourself.**

- **What are you most proud of?**

- **Why do you want to attend medical school?**

Common Interview Questions

- **What are your strengths?**

- **What are your weaknesses?**

- **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Common Interview Questions

- **Tell me about your hobbies.**

- **Explain any irregularities or low grades on your application.**

- **What you think your references said about you in your recommendation letters?**

Common Interview Questions

- **Why do you want to attend this school?**

- **Describe a situation in which you had to work with difficult people. How did you handle it?**

- **What are your specific goals in medicine?**

Maximize your chances of being invited to interview

It may be too late to make drastic changes in your GPA, test scores, or volunteer experience. However, you can greatly improve your chances for success with a perfected personal statement.



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