

Interviews

What to expect and how to prepare

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Think of the interview as a supplement to your application

WHAT WE GET FROM THE APPLICATION

- Motivation
- Clinical exposure
- Service
- Leadership
- Research
- Other's opinions of you
- Academic ability

WHAT WE GET FROM THE INTERVIEW

- Motivation
- Communication skill/empathy
- How well you know yourself
- Problem solving skill
- Evidence of curiosity
- Understanding what you are getting into

UWSOM Interviews

- Panel interviews
 - 3 Interviewers to 1 applicant
- 30 minutes
- All interviewers (except for one) have MCAT and GPA omitted







Reasons for Panel Interviews

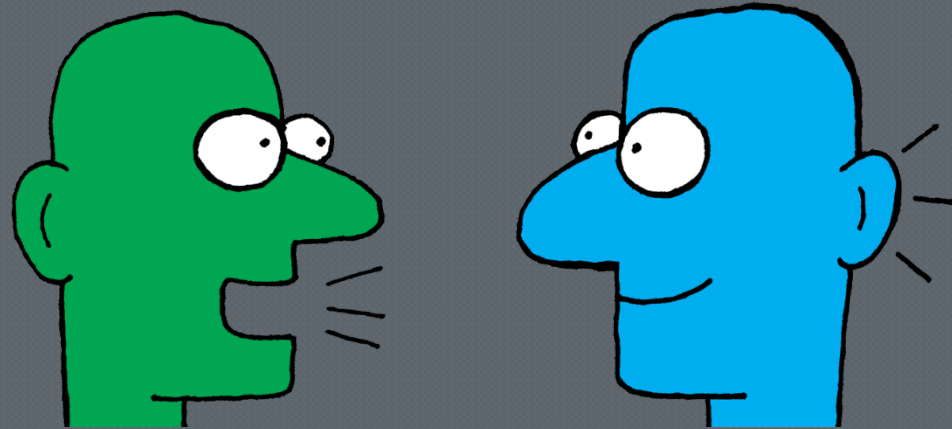


- Minimize interviewer bias
- Increase reliability of evaluations
- Interviewers bring different perspectives and experiences

Questions to Expect:

- ◉ **Motivation** = passion for the career; well thought through
 - Will you weather stress and disappointment?
- ◉ **Scenario or Situational Question** = communication skills, empathy, analytical skill
 - Can we picture you as a physician?
- ◉ **Understanding of medicine** = Do you know what you are getting into?
 - Are you likely to enjoy your career or be disillusioned?
- ◉ **Health care delivery & Social determinants of Health** = Are you paying attention? What are the current issues? Why are there differences in the care people receive?
 - Also demonstrates curiosity and self-directed lifelong learning

Communication and interpersonal skills



- Listen actively
- Make yourself understood
- Be clear and don't ramble
- Put yourself in someone else's shoes
- Respect others' opinions
- Allow for different values
- Avoid judgement

How well do you know yourself?

- What are you really good at?
- What are you working on?
- What should you be working on?
- What have you done with feedback you've received?
- In what ways are you suited for a career in medicine?



Problem solving skills

How do you approach something unfamiliar?

- Define the problem
- What do you know?
- What do you need to know?
- How are you going to gather information?
- What will you do with information?
- Think out loud
- Process is more important than answer
- Support solutions with information gathered
- Generate alternative solutions

It is fine to say:
“I don’t know,”



Then say, “Here’s how I would find out.”



Understanding what you are getting into particularly in the United States

- What types of medical practices are there?
 - How does rural medicine differ from academic medicine?
 - What is relevant in healthcare in Montana?
- Who pays for medical care? How?
- How has technology changed medicine? (for better or worse)
- How will health care likely be delivered in the near future?
- What frustrates doctors?
- What is the role of a doctor in a community?

General Advice for Virtual Interviews

- Note the time zone for your interviews
- Check that you have stable internet connection
- Test microphone and audio in advance
- Minimize background distractions
- Position camera at eye level
- Avoid bright light behind you
 - If interviewing at night, have a lamp in front of you

Source: AAMC Virtual Interviews: Tips for Medical School Applicant

General Advice for In-Person Interviews

- Fly in the night before and give yourself plenty of time to get to the airport after your interview.
- Business formal is common. Wear comfortable and professional attire (that includes shoes).
- Be courteous and respectful to everyone you meet.

General Advice for All Interviews

- When using patient examples, don't repeat the examples from your application. We already know those. Suggests limited experience
- Be spontaneous. Don't try to tell us what you think we want to hear. Being prepared and being rehearsed are different.
- Long vs short answers (broad brush strokes vs pointillism)
- Prepare points you want to make and share them at the end of the interview.
- Don't ask questions because you think you are supposed to.
- Have fun!

Thank You!

Any Questions?

