

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

What the Committee is Evaluating

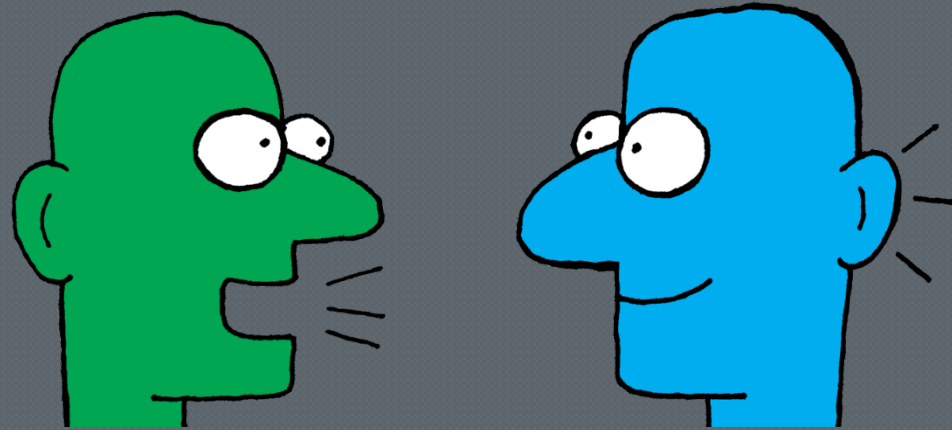
- ◉ **Motivation and exploration** = passion for the career; well thought through
 - Will you weather stress and disappointment?
 - Are you likely to enjoy your career or be disillusioned?
- ◉ **Communication Skills** = Can you express an idea or thought concisely?
- ◉ **Empathy** = Can you imagine yourself in someone else's position?
 - Do you consider how someone else might feel about a situation given their experience, culture and/or social context?
- ◉ **Knowledge of the field of medicine** = Do you know what you are getting into?
 - What do you consider markers of success for a physician?
 - Why are there differences in the care people receive?
- ◉ **Analytical thinking/problem solving** = How do you “think on your feet”

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?



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

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?



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.”



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?

