What to expect and how to prepare

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Panel interviews
• 3 Interviewers to 1 applicant

30 minutes

All interviewers except for one blinded to MCAT and GPA
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?

- **Role play** = communication skills, empathy, analytical
  - Can we picture you as a physician?

- **Understanding of medicine** = Do you know what your life will be like?
  - 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
- Don’t judge
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?
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.”
- Consider context of person’s issue
- Don’t jump to solution
- What are the pertinent socio-economic factors?
- How does the person FEEL about the situation and why?
- Engage
Example: a patient who has lung disease and is doing something unhealthy (e.g. smoking)

- Don’t get too medical (e.g. when do you cough? Do you bring up phlegm?)
- Go for context:
  - How does smoking affect you?
  - How do you feel after you smoke?
  - How are you coping with this illness/situation?
  - What is your support system?
What types of medical practices are there?
- How does rural medicine differ from academic medicine?

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?
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.
General Advice

- 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.
- Have fun!