Interviews

What to expect and how to prepare

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Think of the interview as a supplement to your application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT WE GET FROM THE APPLICATION</th>
<th>WHAT WE GET FROM THE INTERVIEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motivation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical exposure</td>
<td>Communication skill/empathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>How well you know yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Problem solving skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Evidence of curiosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other’s opinions of you</td>
<td>Understanding what you are getting into</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic ability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?
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?