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
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 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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Define the problem</th>
<th>Think out loud</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you know?</td>
<td>Process is more important than answer</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do you need to know?</td>
<td>Support solutions with information gathered</td>
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<tr>
<td>How are you going to gather information?</td>
<td>Generate alternative solutions</td>
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<td>What will you do with information?</td>
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It is fine to say: “I don’t know,”

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