

Interview Packet

For Pre-health majors

Before the interview:

- Research the employer and carefully review the job description
- Print error free resumes on resume paper
- Prepare questions to ask the employer
- Iron and clean your suit and dress shoes
- Know your driving directions or interview location and parking information
- **Practice interviewing through a mock interview with career services**
- **Use interviewstream on www.hireOSUgrads.com.** To access it click interview button on left menu then click practice interviews. Choose any of the pre-health options. You can access this with any computer that has a camera or webcam, 24/7.

During the interview:

- Arrive 10-15 minutes early
- Make strong eye contact
- Shake hands firmly, two pumps and release
- Be the best, professional version of yourself
- Take a beat to think and organize your thoughts before answering challenging questions
- Take 30-90 seconds to answer each question, using examples and stories from your experience
- Speak clearly and don't rush
- Be positive and enthusiastic
- If you get stuck avoid saying "I don't know", instead ask to come back to the question later
- Show your confidence but not arrogance
- Do not ask about benefits or salary

After the interview

- Ask the employers your prepared questions, take notes on answers
- Ask for business cards so you can send a thank you card or email
- Shake hands and thank them for their time
- Follow up promptly with a thank you card or email
- Maintain professional communication, complete any further instructions given at the interview
- Attend other events on campus when the employer is present

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Sample Interview Questions

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question is extremely common for an opening question. Take 60-90 seconds to give an overview of who you are. This can include your major, graduation date, home town, reason for choosing this field of study and key experiences related to the medical field. You shouldn't spend a lengthy amount of time on any one area but instead briefly mention all the key details that are relevant. This is also the perfect time to make sure you point out anything from your application that you want them to know.

2. Why do you want to become a doctor? Why are you interested in medicine/healthcare?

Answer this question by explaining what drew you to this field. What makes this type of work sound interesting and rewarding for you? What made you want to apply to medical school? Describe how this job is a good fit for you. Avoid common answers, instead tell them why you uniquely should be a doctor.

3. What types of exposure have you had to the medical field? What steps have you taken to acquaint yourself with what a physician does? What experiences do you have to prepare you for this work?

Explain in detail how you have sought out experiences that helped you better understand the field of medicine. You can talk about job shadowing, jobs, internships, classes, class projects, volunteer positions, clubs or student organizations, or campus involvement that demonstrates how you built skills that directly connect to preparing for work in medicine. Pull examples from more than one experience and make connections to what this taught you or what was important about the experience. Explain what you learned, saw, evaluated and how this helped you better understand your career goals. Describe your understanding of the medical field and various environments.

4. Behavior Based question examples:

- Tell me about a time when
- Give me an example of...

Use the **STAR** method to help outline your response

Situation + **T**asks Required + Your **A**ctions Taken = **R**esult

Answer these questions by telling a story from your personal, academic or work experience. Follow the STAR formula in order to stay on track but also include enough detail to stay unique and memorable. Before the interview determine what stories and examples you could share so the information is fresh in your mind. Practice your delivery but don't memorize the dialog so you can be flexible with delivery.

- Tell me about a time you worked with a team.
- Give me an example of a time you had to solve a problem or work through a difficult situation.
- What experience do you have with communication?
- Tell me about how you make decisions quickly.
- How do you work under pressure?
- Give me an example of an ethical decision you had to make.
- Tell me about a time you failed or didn't meet expectations.
- Give me an example of a time you had to use time management.
- Tell me about an experience you had in a leadership role.
- What was your biggest accomplishment or success?
- Provide an example of a situation where deadlines were important.

5. What were some of your favorite classes and why?

Discuss classes, assignments or projects that you had during your time as an undergraduate. Relate this type of learning to preparation for medical school. Discuss the influence of faculty, mentors, TAs or other individuals who helped you be successful in the classroom. Include information about how you were successful in academics and how your undergraduate program prepared you for medical training.

6. What are your strengths?

Be able to list 1-3 strengths you can offer the institution/program and outline where you used them or where you learned them. This answer will be stronger when you can prove you have the skills by including examples utilizing the STAR method.

7. What are your weaknesses?

It's time to be honest and identify an area that needs development. Don't mention something that would make this type of work impossible for you but put some thought into an area you want to improve. Finish this answer with a positive spin by talking about how you have overcome this weakness or what you are doing to improve in this area.

8. What are your long and short term goals? What does success look like in ten years in this profession?

This requires you to describe where you see yourself in the future. Don't answer with goals that wouldn't align with the education you are seeking. Have an idea of what you want to do with your professional career. Include location, size of practice, targeted patients and other details.

9. What motivates you?

Answer this honestly, and the content is likely to be personal. Avoid money motives, but the possibilities are endless. Respect, helping others, problem solving, accomplishment, goal driven are some options.

10. How will you finance your education?

Medical school can be very expensive. The interviewers are looking to see that applicants have made a financial plan for how to cover those costs. Whether it be through family support, loans or employment be able to describe how you will handle the costs associated with receiving medical training.

11. What are some of the current trends in medicine? What are new changes in medicine?

Be able to discuss any hot topics in your area of medicine. Read medical journals, publications and other news sources to learn what is trending. The Affordable Care Act and details related to the health care bill are likely to come up so be prepared to share what you know about this topic.

12. What are your feelings on euthanasia/ abortion/ vaccinations/ other medical hot topic?

This is not the time to give a textbook, factual answer. Do not try to interpret what the interview panel "wants to hear". Truly evaluate your own thoughts and feelings on the subject and discuss them. Include information on how you came to that conclusion such as research, articles, class exposure, people of influence on you, personal situations, individual experiences and especially your own morals, ethics or beliefs.

13. What type of research or lab work have you completed?

Include details on any student positions as Research Assistant, Lab Tech, or other roles working with research. Be able to describe the project as a whole as well as your role on the team. What types of chemicals, equipment, materials and technology have you worked with? What was the goal of the project? Did you present, make a poster or contribute in a significant way? What did you learn? What did you find the most interesting? How did your time in the lab/field compliment your education?

14. What are your plans if you are not accepted into medical school?

Having a plan B is always a good idea. Acceptance rates make it fact that not everyone will move forward in their plans to study medicine. What will you do to prepare for the application process again in the future? What will do you instead of practicing medicine? What other career interests do you do have?

15. How have you built leadership skills? How have you demonstrated leadership?

Describe a situation where you acted as the leader using the STAR method. This could be with a group project, an executive position with a club or organization on campus or a volunteer position that put you in charge of something/someone. Discuss any situation where others relied on you to make decisions and give direction. What key skills did you demonstrate? What type of leader were you? Were you successful in your leadership role?

16. Why should we choose you over thousands of other qualified candidates?

This is your time to sell yourself. Describe what makes you different from other students, tell them what you can bring to the table and describe key experiences or skills that set you apart. You have something to offer – here is where you show that!

17. Do you have any questions for us?

Now it's your turn to ask a few questions to the interview panel. Don't ask something that can be found easily on a website or in available brochures or paperwork. Prepare 4-5 questions but likely you will only ask a couple. Time is likely going to be limited for your questions.

- Is there a mentor program?
- What kind of support system could I expect to find if I were to attend this institution?
- What do you feel makes this institution unique?
- How would you describe the campus atmosphere?
- Would you characterize the classes as more competitive or cooperative?
- How would you best describe the entering class?
- What kind of assistance will be available to me in identifying sites for residence?
- In your view, what is the greatest strength of your program?
- What type of clinical exposure may I expect here?
- How would you characterize the school's philosophy?
- How responsive is the school administration to student feedback?