

The Medical School Interview

Why Interview?

- Get to know the applicant on a personal level
- Allow applicant to demonstrate knowledge of the school/program or ask questions about the school/program
- Assess ability to answer ethical questions or questions about current medical issues
- Allow a chance for the applicant to talk about different aspects of his/her application or discuss aspects not listed on the application
- Allow applicant to defend weak areas of the application

Types of Interview

- ONE ON ONE: What JABSOM uses and is the most common form
- Group Interviews or Panel Interviews
- MMI: Multiple Mini Interviews (to be discussed next)



One on One Interview vs. MMI



	MMI	1-1
Usage	Steadily increasing	Very Common
Types of questions	Pointed/targeted questions each with a specific task of assessing the candidate; goal is to ask a WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS	May be conversational (getting to know you) but also may involve scenario or ethical questions; goal is to ask questions to get a DEEPER UNDERSTANDING of the candidate/to get to know the candidate personally

One on One Interview vs. MMI

	MMI	1-1
length	Multiple (~10) 5-10 minute stations	usually about 1 hr (varies by interviewer)
Evaluation	Scored by how you answer specific targeted questions at each station	Different methods of scoring, but each interviewer may rank you (dont recommend to strongly recommend) and make additional comments about you

Prepping for your interview:

DO

- DO YOUR RESEARCH (school, special programs that you're applying to, interviewer, etc)
- Familiarize yourself with current events, common ethical scenarios
- Read your application over again. Know it like the back of your hand.
- Mock Interviews
- Schedule your interview (along with travel and housing) in a timely manner
- Prioritize what you want to the committee to know about you before going into the interview

DONT

- Over-prepare or rehearse. You don't want to come across fake or over-rehearsed.
- Go In blind (you should have done your research, done mock interviews, and prioritized what you would like the interviewer(s) to know about you)
- Put off travel and housing arrangements
- Wait too long to schedule your interview after getting the interview notice, or reschedule last minute because of poor planning

An exercise

- We can't exactly research the schools now, but we can think of how we'd like to open! Think about these questions:

- Why made you decide to pursue medicine?
- Tell me a little about yourself

The Interview



DO	DONT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•ARRIVE ON TIME!!!!•Dress well (suit and tie, pantsuit, etc)•Open well (handshake and smile!)•Know the common opening questions (ex: tell me about yourself; why medicine, etc)•Remember body language (smile appropriately, make appropriate eye contact, sit up straight, don't fidget, etc)•Be personable! They are trying to get to know you.•Be comfortable in your own shoes, don't freak out if you're stressed out as they may be trying to test you•Thank the interviewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Arrive late•Underdress or wear something too flashy•DONT BE LONG WINDED•Be afraid to ask for time to think about a question (especially an ethical one)•Stress out (or at least show your stress)•Slouch, fidget, show little emotion, make little eye contact, etc. Again BODY LANGUAGE IS SUPER IMPORTANT!•Go in with a rigid agenda or come across rehearsed. You should always have an idea of what you want to convey, but you should not sound like you spent 100 hrs practicing answers. Go with the flow of the conversation.



After the Interview

- Send a thank you letter!
- Don't stress over how you did (it's done!)
- However, you should assess yourself and things you can do better in the next interview

Time to Practice!