

The Health Profession Interview

For MD/DO/DDS candidates, and hopefuls for any of the health professions, the admission interview is the decisive event in the application process. Everything you've accomplished up to this point has been directed at gaining an invitation for an interview. If you are offered an interview, the admissions staff has determined that you have the intellectual ability to meet the academic challenges of the professional school. The interview will determine which candidates will be invited to join the school community. Communication skills are integral to success in the health professions, and you'll want to display your skills during the interview. You will also want to demonstrate that you possess not only the intellectual but, more importantly, the personal qualities necessary to succeed in the profession. Among the personal qualities that MD/DO/DDS/PT/CNP schools seek are: integrity, dependability, maturity, service orientation, communication and teamwork skills, empathy, respect, resilience and a desire to learn. You should also demonstrate that you have a good understanding of the profession you hope to enter.

The idea is not to worry about the interview, but to **prepare**. This information is designed to give a general idea of what to expect at a health professions interview. The list below does not pretend to establish a comprehensive guide to every possible question that might be asked at an interview. It does, however, provide a starting point from which to begin your preparations.

Preparation

- Begin your preparation with thoughtful self-evaluation.
- Re-read your application and personal statement.
- Review the "Experiences" section; why have you chosen the clinical, community service and research activities on your resume?
- Relax and be yourself! Be prepared to answer questions honestly and with enthusiasm and confidence!

General/Basic Questions

1. Tell us about yourself.
2. Why do you want to become a doctor/dentist/nurse practitioner?
3. What are three things this school should know about you?
4. Why are you interested in this school?
5. What would you do next year if you are not accepted?

Education/Experience Questions

1. Tell me about your clinical experiences and what you learned from them.
2. Tell me about a time that you helped someone. What did it mean to you?
3. Tell me about your research experience.
4. Describe a challenge or conflict you've faced and how you handled it.

Ethical/Morality Questions

1. What are three ethical issues currently facing the medical profession? Discuss.
2. How would you feel about treating a patient addicted to drugs? Infected with HIV?
3. Have you ever cheated or do you know someone who has cheated?

Health Care/Medical Field Questions

1. What does the term "inequalities in health" mean to you?
2. Do you think that health care is a right or a privilege?
3. What do you know about palliative care?
4. Be prepared to demonstrate your understanding of the Affordable Care Act, HMOs, PPOs, Medicare, Medicaid, and third-party providers.

You'll find some useful interview films on You Tube. Watch:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26Xez5FD6Tc&feature=relmfu>

General Interview Overview

<https://www.aamc.org/students/aspiring/basics/280914/interview.html>

<http://gradschool.about.com/cs/medicalinterview/a/medquest.htm?terms=medical+school>

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/programs/>

<http://www.medical-interviews.co.uk/interview-questions-medical-school-interviews.aspx>

Interview Feedback

<http://studentdoctor.net/reference-materials/interview-feedback/> This site offers descriptions of interviews by students who've interviewed in the past year--school-by-school. Look up the school that has invited you and prepare based on questions asked of other candidates. Easy to apply information.

Ethical Issues

<http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/site/cases.html>

The AMA's web site addressing ethical issues in medicine, with sample cases, a code of medical ethics, and more. Remember that the answer to ethical questions is not as important as the thought process, understanding and sensitivity you demonstrate.

Political Update

Health Care Reform: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/index.html>

The AMA on Health Care Reform: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama1/pub/upload/mm/399/hsr-booklet.pdf>

Multiple-Mini Interview (MMI)

The multiple mini interview started at McMaster University Medical School in Canada and last year was used by 19 US medical schools. MMI is designed to offer each candidate multiple scenario-based interviews—each with a different interviewer. The scenarios may be medical or ethical situations or even a task that must be performed by the group working together. The MMI allows candidates an opportunity to think on their feet; having multiple votes eliminates any positive or negative bias inherent in the traditional one-on-one interview. See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYZc-rItyRw&feature=related>

<https://www.aamc.org/students/aspiring/369362/whatsitliketoparticipateinmultipleminiinterviewsmmis.html>

<http://www.multipleminiinterview.com/mmi-questions/> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYZc-rItyRw&feature=related>

No matter whether the interview is a traditional one-on one discussion, a panel interview, open-folder or blind, or the MMI, the idea is to.....

Practice, practice, practice!

- Be yourself. Hamilton students are accustomed to speaking in class, giving presentations, working with a group. This is the part of the application process where you will shine.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to practice—with your friends, parents and roommates. Ask for honest feedback. Sign up for a practice interview with Leslie North to decide which experiences to discuss
- Sign up early in the fall for a practice interview with **Leslie Bell** by calling the Career Center at x4346 for an appointment. Tell the receptionist you want a practice interview. Leslie Bell's schedule fills up early. Call well in advance!