



## Preparing for Your Professional School Interview

1. Do your homework! Thoroughly digest the information on the medical or dental website and in any printed materials and website reviews. You should know everything about the program before you visit.
2. Make a list of your questions about the program. Write them down! Ask them at the interview, showing your interest. Also make sure you have a list of the things about the program you like. In other words, be able to tell interviewers why you applied to that program.
3. Make a list of questions you have for current students. There are many things you want to know as a potential student and resident of the area! Current students are a great source of information about potential PhD mentors.
4. Make a list of people you will or may meet, *i.e.*, anyone on the admissions committee (do not forget clerical staff members.) This is especially important if you know the members of the interview committee.
5. For medical school: become familiar with some of the issues facing the medical profession, *e.g.*, health care plans, Affordable Care Act (ACA), shortage of general practitioners, aging population, etc.
6. Be prepared to discuss your strengths! Give specific examples.
7. Be prepared to discuss things you are working to improve upon (*e.g.*, time management, speaking skills, etc.) and the specific things you are doing to address these issues. (You do not have weaknesses, but you do have things you want to improve.)
8. If faced with an ethical question, identify the two conflicting principles and, if pressed for an opinion, go with the one that is most important in your mind.
9. Re-read your application materials (all of them, including the AMCAS application) and prepare to discuss anything in them. These materials will be the source of introductions and questions in the initial stages of a 'closed' folder interview.

10. Practice your greeting in front of a mirror and with friends. Practice answering questions! There is no way to conduct a mock interview that will create the same stressful environment as the “real thing”. Be sure you have some practiced greetings and opening remarks so you can get your mouth and brain working. Interviewers know you are nervous, but they want to be certain you can handle stressful situations.
11. Use the **Situation, Task, Action, Result (STAR)** method to answer behavioral questions.
12. Remember that successful interviews are more than question-answer sessions. They involve *conversations*. Do not ramble. There is nothing wrong with taking a moment to gather and organize your thoughts. Get your brain moving before your mouth moves.
13. Search the Internet and get strategies and suggestions from trustworthy sources for preparing for

Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs). Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a251BtdDH8> (not US, but still valuable information) or sample questions like these: <http://multipleminiinterview.com/mmi-questions/>

Examples of MMIs: *Watch for interviewee answer structure, room/station layout, interviewer-Interviewee communication. Note: Use for training purposes only: Do not copy/repeat answers to questions during your interviews*

Scenario 1: How would you talk to a friend who wants the key code to the gym in your apartment building? (Problem solving, communication, empathy,) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOVbDD9INjE>

Scenario 2: How would you handle a patient who has bruises when you examine him or her? (Ethics, Communication, empathy) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMUGbTulBCs>

OITE Library books on MMI preparation and ethical questions:

Multiple Mini Interview: Winning Strategies from Admissions Faculty (2016), Samir Desai\_

Doing Right: A Practical Guide to Ethics for Medical Trainees and Physicians (2014) Philip C. Hebert

Medical Ethics: A Very Short Introduction (2004) Tony Hope

14. Attend the Interview Workshop on July 17th, 2019 or [August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019](#) or watch the Interviewing for [Professional School videocast](#) on the OITE website.
15. Sign up for the OITE group mock interviews. You are required to have attended the workshop or watched the videocast to participate in this practice.
16. Prepare questions like:
  - Tell me about yourself
  - Why medicine?
  - Why should we accept you?
  - What are your relevant strengths?

What are your relevant weaknesses? (or the weakness in your application?)

Why did you apply to this medical school?

Do you have a role model in medicine?

Why do people choose to become and continue to be doctors?

Are there any questions you have for us about our school or program?

Is there anything you want to add to your application?

17. Arrive the day before the scheduled interview. Take no chances with airline connections, etc. Dress appropriately. For professional schools it is full business professional! Men: suit and tie. Women: business suit and comfortable shoes. No cell phones or laptops.
18. Have fun! This is a chance to show off! Interviewers want to be certain you are right for the program and that you like the program and are considering attending.
19. Smile. Always smile...particularly if you are interviewing for dental school!
20. Thank your interviewer for taking time to meet with you. Let her/him know how interested you are in their program.