

Sample Questions: Pre-Health Interviews

Personal Background:

- Tell me about yourself.
- How do you relax? What do you do in your spare time?
- If I asked your peers to describe you, what would they say?
- What have you done to challenge yourself?
- What motivates you?
- How do you handle pressure?
- Why do you think we should admit you to this school?
- What would you like to add to your personal statement?
- Provide an example of when you handled stress effectively.
- What was the most difficult decision you ever had to make?
- What is your biggest mistake/failure and what did you learn from it?
- What have been your most remarkable accomplishments?
- What do you consider to be your greatest asset?
- What is your greatest weakness? What have you done so far to try to improve in this area?
- Give me an example of how you recently used your problem solving skills to resolve a difficult situation.
- What book had the greatest impact on you recently?
- If you were on the admissions committee, what type of student would you look for?
- What have you learned from working with patients?

Educational Background:

- What was your favorite class in college? What did you learn from it?
- Have you ever been involved in research? Tell me about your experiences.
- Why did you decide to be a _____ major?
- If you could change anything in your academic career, what would you do differently?
- How would you rate the strength of your academic background?
- How do you feel your undergraduate education prepared you for your chosen career?
- What type of opportunities have you pursued to develop your leadership skills?

Sample Questions: Pre-Health Interviews

Career Planning:

- How do you know that this is a good career choice for you?
- Why are you applying to an osteopathic medical school? (if applicable)
- What people/events/courses had the greatest influence on your decision to become a ___ (insert career here)?
- What kind of internships, research projects, and volunteer experiences have you pursued to help confirm your career choice?
- What would you do if you were not accepted to ___ (insert health profession) school?
- Why did you apply to this school? What other schools did you apply to?
- What do you see yourself doing ten years from now, professionally, personally, etc.?

General Health Care Environment:

- What is your perception of the relationship between physicians and the other members of the healthcare team?
- What do you see as the role of ___ (insert health profession) in the overall healthcare system?
- What do you think is the impact of insurance regulations, threats of malpractice, etc. on the health professions?
- Do you see a shift from solo practices to clinics and HMOs? Why/Why not?
- In your opinion, what is the main cause for skyrocketing health care costs?
- What suggestions do you have for bringing health education programs to underserved communities?
- What are your views on cultural competency?

Questions for you to ask:

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

Sample Questions specific to Medical School Interviews

Hypothetical Situations:

- If you were a physician in an emergency room, how would you respond to individuals who could not show proof of insurance, knowing that serving them would be against your hospital's rules?
- How would you calm down a patient who has been waiting for you for over two hours?
- What would you tell a 13-year old patient who came to you for a birth control prescription?
- How do you think you would respond to a bleeding patient knowing he/she was HIV positive?
- How and when would you inform a patient that he/she had a terminal illness?
- What kind of conversation would you have with a woman approaching you about getting an abortion?

Medical Ethics:

- Do you think it is ethical to offer monetary incentives to encourage people to donate organs?
- Do you think that doctors should always tell the truth to their patients?
- What is your position on physician-assisted suicide?
- Do you think that HIV positive doctors should be allowed to practice?
- Do you think that expensive medical treatment should be suspended for elderly people?
- What ethical dilemmas do you associate with genetic screening, in-vitro fertilization and other forms of new reproductive technologies?
- What do you see as the main moral challenges presented by stem cell research?
- How do you feel about using animals for research purposes?
- Do you think hypnosis is an effective/legitimate form of medical treatment?
- What are your professional thoughts on breast implants/enlargements and other "cosmetic" types of medical interventions?

Sample Questions specific to Medical School Interviews

Medicine as a Profession:

- How would you describe the "ideal" physician?
- What is your understanding of a typical day for a physician?
- What concerns do you have about becoming a doctor?
- How do you think you are going to combine the demands of your personal life with a career in medicine?
- Do you think GPA and MCAT are adequate measures of a candidate's aptitude toward medicine? Why/Why not?
- How would you feel about working for a health maintenance organization?
- What role do you think doctors should play in the devising and implementation of a health care reform?
- Do you think that doctors' pay is equitable?
- Do you believe doctors are viewed with as much respect today as in the past?
- Do you feel a personal obligation to provide medical treatment to those in underserved areas?
- What do you think are important attributes doctors should have when working with children? And with older patients?
- Can you suggest ways to improve existing mechanisms to recruit underrepresented students into the medical field?

Please note: This is not a comprehensive list of questions. We cannot guarantee that all or any of them will be on your actual interviews. It is just a way for you to practice.