

Medical School Interview Tips for Success

What you can find out before the interview:

- Calling the school ahead of time to find out *what your interview day will be like* can keep you mentally and physically prepared for the day. For example, will there be a tour of the school before or after the interview or are you simply going for the interview? On that note, it is a good idea to keep in mind the weather conditions in order to dress accordingly. Although your interview may be inside, you may be spending some time outside as well.
- You may also ask if your interview will be *open or closed file* as this may change the overall goal of the interview. In a closed file interview, it is likely that the interviewer has not read your file and you should be prepared for more general interview questions. Be prepared to give them the bigger picture of you and your goals. If you are having an open interview, be prepared for detailed questions and know your application and prior research well.

Answering those tougher questions:

- Questions about your MCAT scores - Be honest when asked about your scores, but do not pass judgment on them (i.e. good or bad scores). If you feel that your scores are not reflective of your potential, point out the evidence to back this up. No matter what your scores, there is a reason why you got this far.
- Ethical Questions - There is usually no right or wrong answers with these difficult case scenarios. However, the interviewers would probably want you to be able to look at both sides of the situation and not stick to black and white thinking.
- Why this particular school? – Your answer should be genuine and well-researched. Although it helps to draw on information from the school's website, this should certainly be a preliminary step. It would be wise to research specifics about the school and perhaps do some informational interviews with current students and faculty. After all, once you get that acceptance letter, you want to make sure the school is a good fit for you.
- Questions about current medical topics: Okay, so nobody expects you to know all there is about medicine. However, it is a good idea to be familiar with some of the top medical journals and at least read the health section of the New York Times. Try to focus on what you know, rather than what you may not know.