

Graduate School Interviews

Succeeding in your Interview!

Graduate School Interviews

It's all about practice and preparation!

SCHEDULE MOCK-INTERVIEWS

- **Do Mock-Interviews!** I Googled a plethora of common interview questions and asked my friends to mock-interview me! We dressed up and did the whole nine-yards to simulate a real interview.
- **Practice makes perfect.** It'll seem silly at first, but the more you practice the more comfortable you'll feel in a real interview.
- I had about **five mock interviews with my friends** before going to interview. Also treat your friends to dinner or coffee, if they're going out of their way to help you :)

BE PREPARED

- Don't worry if you do not have previous interview experience. Most schools are not trying to grill you, and just want to **get to know YOU**.
- With that said, be prepared to answer questions such as: **Why do you want to go here? Why do you want to be a doctor?**
- **Be prepared!** Know some interesting facts about the school, even if you just applied to get in somewhere, anywhere!
- **Practice with family and friends** so you feel more comfortable.

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PRACTICE ANSWERING TOUGH QUESTIONS

- I read a couple of **interview books** that told me how to prepare, and what to say when asked tough questions.
- I also **practiced interviewing with friends and in front of a mirror** – so that I could work on posture, movements, and what others thought of my answers.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH DIFFERENT INTERVIEW FORMATS

- **Find out what kind of medical interview it will be.** There are many different formats of interviews including MMI, traditional 1-on-1 interview, MMI-traditional interview combination, closed-filed interviews, open-filed interviews, etc.
- In closed-file interviews for example, your interviewer may only have access to your personal statement, so you can expect questions like "Tell me more about yourself" or "What are some of the more important activities you engaged in as an undergrad?"
- The questions in open-filed interviews tend to be more specific i.e. "Why did you say this clinic experience was the most important to you?"

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DO YOUR RESEARCH

- When I get an interview offer, I would **research what type of interview the school uses**. So far, I've done panel, one-on-one, and group interviews.
- Most of the time the interview begins with **"Tell me about yourself"** or **"Why medicine?"**
- It is important to **research everything about the school**: their mission, programs, and even the area they are located in. Also, you can use SDN to find out what other questions the school might ask in the interview, and prepare answers to those.
- **Be confident and believe in yourself** on the day of the interview. The school is obviously interested in you, so you just have to be yourself and remember to be friendly and professional to everyone you meet once you are there.

USE YOUR RESOURCES

- Research the **type of questions that may be asked, prepare your answers, and then practice interviewing**.
- I went to my Career Center to **practice mock interviews with counselors**.
- I also read a few **MMI prep books** to see examples.