

Creating your personal statement

Your personal statement should demonstrate the following:

- What is your motivation?
- Why are you interested?
- In what ways are you suited for medicine?
- Show us how you know that this is the right career for you.

The following are questions that may help you better understand and answer these points:

Motivation

1. Who has inspired you to be here?
2. Why do you want to be a doctor?
3. What factors have led to your consideration of medicine as a career?
4. What other careers might satisfy you?
5. What would your dream job be?

Understanding Yourself

1. Give an example of a time when you had to solve a difficult problem. What was the problem and how did you go about resolving the issue?
2. Give an example of important feedback you have received (positive or negative). What made it important? How did it impact you? What did you do with it?
3. Describe a recent situation in which you felt criticized and tell how you responded to the criticism?
4. What has been your greatest disappointment to date and what did you do with it?
5. Describe a situation in which you felt misjudged.
6. Describe an experience in which communication proved difficult.
7. What are your strengths and what are your strengths in progress?
8. Compared to others you know, how well do you handle pressure? Criticism? Failure?
9. What is your learning style?
10. What is a typical day in your life and how do you see that changing when you are a medical student?
11. Describe a situation in which you felt you could not connect with someone, and why. What could you have done to allow for better connection?
12. Describe a situation in which you had to step outside your comfort zone. What did you learn from that experience?
13. Which of your character traits do you find most difficult to portray in an interview?

14. When was the last time you made a mistake, and what did you do about it?

Knowledge of the field of medicine

1. What personal attributes do you consider most important for success in research?
2. What do you consider markers of success for a physician?
3. What personal attributes do you consider most important for success as a physician?
4. What attributes do you feel are necessary to elicit hope and trust in patients?
5. What medical error(s) have you seen and what did you learn?
6. Why do you think community service is a category on the AMCAS application?
7. If you were putting together a health care team, who would be on it?
8. How is the role of the physician changing?
9. What does it mean to be a professional?
10. Choose one of the issues facing health care today and tell us how you might go about addressing it.