

Preparing for your Interview

During the interview, you will be evaluated on the following:

- Communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Maturity
- Your understanding of a career in medicine
- Ability to think “on your feet”

The first two are innate for some and come with practice for others. For some it is helpful to have someone you don't know very well ask you some of these questions and then give you feedback on your replies. This may help you see whether you communicate your thoughts clearly.

Maturity implies that you have learned from your various life experiences, whatever they may be.

The following are questions that will help you prepare to demonstrate your understanding of a medical career to your interviewers and to consider some of the issues that may arise during your professional career. They may also help you re-evaluate whether you are choosing the right career.

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 describe how you might go about addressing it.

Knowledge of society

1. If you could write a public relations article what would it be about?
2. If it were up to you to choose the person of the year for the cover of Time magazine, who would it be? Why?
3. What do you think people in the US are most concerned about? How might this affect their health (or not)?

Analytical Thinking/Problem Solving

1. If you had all the money in the world and could snap your fingers, what problem would you solve? How?
2. You are on a committee to solve a particular issue. You disagree with the direction being set by the chair of that committee, and strongly feel that it is incorrect. What would you do?
3. How do you resolve conflict at work, home, in the classroom?
4. Choose one of the issues facing health care today and describe how you might go about addressing it.

Ethics/Professionalism

1. A patient brings you a very expensive gift. What would you do?
2. A patient writes you a love letter. How do you handle this situation?
3. You are called to the ER to see a patient that has a problem supposedly in your area of expertise. When you arrive it becomes obvious that this patient has a completely different type of problem. What do you do?
4. You catch a fellow student cheating on an exam. What do you do?
5. Describe a moral or ethical dilemma that arose out of an interpersonal relationship. How did you handle it?
6. There is a new drug to cure a certain type of cancer, but it is extremely expensive. How do you decide who should get the drug?