

The Interview



What We're Looking For

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

Communication Skills

- Active listening-understanding others
- Eye contact
- Clarity without verbosity
- Making yourself understood



How to Improve Communication Skills

- Toastmasters
 - <http://www.toastmasters.org/>
- How to Win Friends and Influence People
 - Dale Carnegie 1936
- Practice talking to someone you don't know
 - Active listening
 - Feedback



Interpersonal Skills

- Empathy
 - Put yourself in another's place
 - Respect other's wishes
- Integrity
 - Consistency
- Non-judgmental
 - Allow for different values

Maturity

- Know yourself
- Recognize needs of others
- Ability to function in stressful situations
- Responsible
- Independent & self reliant
- Confident & secure

How to Improve

- Experiences!
 - Take responsibility
 - Broaden your horizons
- Self assessment
- Ask for feedback





Understanding a Medical Career



Understanding a Medical Career

- Types of practice
 - Solo, group, academic, specialty
- Health care issues: local, regional, national
 - Specific health problems
 - Mal-distribution of resources
 - Delivery
 - Access
 - Costs
- Role of physician in community

Learning About Health Care Issues

- Shadow
- Pre-health organizations
- Public Media
 - npr.org
 - msnbc.msn.com
 - nytimes.com
- AAMC
 - aamc.org
- AMA
 - ama-assn.org
- Journals
 - nejm.org
 - pubs.ama-assn.org
 - annals.org



Thinking “On Your Feet”

- The problem
 - Case scenarios
 - Role play
 - Ethical issue
- Examples
 - Patient autonomy
 - Rights of adolescent patients
 - End of life issues
 - Clinical trials
 - Decisions around scarce resources

What We're Looking For

- Process is more important than “answer”
 - Think out loud
- Ability to gather information
- Ability to generate alternative solutions
- Solutions supported by information
 - Information includes wishes of patient/family
- Willingness to change solution if needed

An Approach to Problem Solving

- Define the problem
 - Rephrase or ask for clarification
- What do you know about the problem?
- What information are you missing?
- Gather information
 - Do it in real time (role play) or tell us how you would do it
- Provide solution(s)
 - Based on your understanding of the problem
 - Based on information you have gathered
 - Demonstrating how the information has influenced your decisions.

- Don't be afraid to say "I don't know."



- But follow with "Here's how I would go about making a decision..."



No: wrong “answers”

Yes: wrong approaches

Quick to judge

Quick to respond without gathering data

Imposing your opinion on patient when you disagree

How to Improve

- Practice with others
- Think about issues ahead of time
- Resources
 - <http://www.criticalthinking.org/>
 - <http://depts.washington.edu/bioethx/topics/index.html>
- Take a problem solving approach to everyday decisions
 - buying a car
 - renting an apartment
 - which medical schools to apply to

Sample Scenario

- I am a 16 year old female who wants birth control pills and I don't want you to tell my parents





- You ought to be ashamed of yourself
- I'm going to tell your parents
- Aren't you a little young?
- Ok, sure



- Are you sexually active?
- What types of birth control have you considered?
- I gather that you don't want to get pregnant. What's your understanding of health problems you can have from sexual intercourse?
- I'm sure your parents care about you.
- Why do you not want your parents to know?
- Can we come to some agreement around....

