

THE INTERVIEW

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

THINK OF THE INTERVIEW AS A SUPPLEMENT TO YOUR APPLICATION

What we get from the application

- Motivation
- Clinical exposure
- Service
- Leadership
- Research
- Other's opinions of you
- Academic ability

What we get from the interview

- Motivation
- Communication skill/empathy
- Problem solving skill
- Your understanding of medicine
- How well you know yourself
- Evidence of curiosity

PREPARING FOR YOUR INTERVIEW

Motivation = Passion for the career

Well thought out.

Don't repeat your application.

Role play = Be yourself.

Have a conversation with the person(s) during the scenario.

Demonstrate communication skills, empathy, analytical skills.

Can we picture you as a physician?

Understanding of medicine = Do you know what your life will be like?

Knowledge of self

Are you likely to enjoy your career or will you be disillusioned?

Health care delivery & Social determinants of health = What are the current issues?

Why are there differences in the health care that people get?



COMMUNICATION AND INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- Listen actively
- Make yourself understood
- Be clear and don't ramble
- Put yourself in someone else's shoes
- Respect others' opinions
- Allow for different values
- Don't judge



ROLE PLAY

- Consider context of person's issue.
- Ask for more information if you need it.
- Don't jump to solution
- What are the pertinent socio-economic factors?
- How does the person FEEL about the situation and why?
- Don't have too many voices in your head, including mine.
- Just engage.

ROLE PLAY

We are not interested in, nor do we expect a diagnosis.

Example: a patient who has lung disease and is doing something unhealthy like smoking.

- Avoid getting too medical:
 - When do you cough?
 - Do you bring up phlegm?
- Go for context:
 - How does smoking affect you?
 - How do you feel after you smoke?
 - How are you coping with this illness/situation?
 - What is your support system?

PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

How do you approach something unfamiliar?

- Define the problem
- What do you know?
- What do you need to know?
- How are you going to gather information?
- What will you do with information?
- Think out loud
- **Process is more important than solution**
- Support solutions with information gathered
- Generate alternative solutions

These are often the “how would you” or “what would you” questions.



It is fine to say “I don’t know,”



Then say, “Here’s how I would find out.”



UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU ARE GETTING INTO - PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES

- How has technology changed medicine? (for better or worse)
- How will health care likely be delivered in the near future?
- What types of medical practices are there?
- What is the role of a doctor in a community?
- Who pays for medical care? How?
- What frustrates doctors?
- What keeps them in practice/makes them happy?



KNOWLEDGE OF SELF: Realistic assessment of strengths, weaknesses, biases

- What makes you happy?
- What frustrates you?
- What pushes your buttons?
- What are you really good at?
- What are you working on?
- What should you be working on?
- What have you done with feedback you've received?
- In what ways are you suited for a career in medicine?



DISCUSSING YOUR FUTURE PLANS WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL

- Although you don't need to commit to a specialty, you should have some vision based on things you know about yourself, such as where you want to live or who you want to take care of.
- Do you identify with any of the doctors you shadowed? Why or why not?
- Consider practice content and physician personality.
- **Keep goals consistent with experience**, or be able to describe what barriers you've had to getting experience consistent with your goals or interests.
- It doesn't make sense to interviewers to talk about a future in bench research in your application, then come to interview and discuss your passion for rural health.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

This is your future.

Are you aware of problems facing medicine and society?

Awareness demonstrates curiosity and self-directed lifelong learning. What will be the obstacles you'll face trying to take care of your patients?

- Costs/ Insurance
- Disparity
- Access/ Mal-distribution
- Food deserts
- U.S. patient expectations
- Language



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE



- Join pre-health groups if you are still in college
- Check out health related media stories, podcasts, etc.
- Ask current health care professionals what they think
- AAMC website- aamc.org
- AMA website-ama-assn.org
- Medical journals



HOW TO BE COMFORTABLE IN AN INTERVIEW SETTING



- Toastmasters
 - Speaking comfortably to a group of strangers
 - Accepting and giving feedback
 - Preparing for leadership positions
- Take an improvisation class
- Get out of your comfort zone
- Practice



GENERAL TIPS:



Don't use the same examples you used in your application.



Think out loud if question starts with "how" or "what".



Don't overdo active listening. (Example-"Where do you see yourself in 15 years?")



Prepare a final sound bite. What do you bring to the table?



If my interview goes well, will I be admitted?

Not necessarily

ADMISSION

- Great application + great interview= IN



- Good application + great interview= Alternate list
- Great application + good interview=Alternate list



- OK application + OK interview=NO



- Great application + bad interview= NO



WE'RE ALL ABOUT GETTING TO "YES"

Tak

Ouj

Hanji

Da

Ken

Shi

Areh

Hai

Nai

Na'am

Oo

Ja

Si

Sim

Ha'an

Ano

Ndiyoo

YOUR QUESTIONS



If you have further questions after the session
please email them to:

askuwsom@uw.edu

THANK YOU