

# THE INTERVIEW

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FORUM SESSION 2

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# THE INTERVIEW

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WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



## 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



## INTERVIEW COMPONENTS

### Motivation → Passion for the career

- Well thought out.
- Don't repeat your application.

### Role play → How you interact with others, think on your feet, problem solve

- 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

Hearing	Listening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidental</li> <li>• Involuntary</li> <li>• Effortless</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused</li> <li>• Voluntary</li> <li>• Intentional</li> </ul>



## ROLE PLAY

- We are not evaluating you on your acting skills
- 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.



## PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

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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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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 read 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?

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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



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 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](http://aamc.org)
- AMA website - [ama-assn.org](http://ama-assn.org)
- Medical journals



## IMPROVING YOUR CONFIDENCE AND COMFORT LEVEL IN AN INTERVIEW SETTING

- Practice
- 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



## 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 DECISIONS

- 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



# YOUR QUESTIONS



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

[askuwsom@uw.edu](mailto:askuwsom@uw.edu)

**THANK YOU**

