

## Sample Interview Questions

- Tell me about yourself. This questions is usually looking to set the student at ease, to find out when and why they decided on a medical career, their interests in medicine, etc.
- What health care experience have you had? Did you enjoy it?
- What do you think about the health care system in the U.S.? What do you think needs to be done?
- What are your thoughts about or what do you know about: abortion, euthanasia, right-to-die, AIDS, tuberculosis, managed care, HMOs?
- What do you do in your spare time? What do you do for relaxation? What clubs have you joined? Have you held any offices?
- Can you explain this/these grade(s)?
- What courses did you like/dislike the most? What was the hardest/easiest?
- What kind of practice do you think you would like? Where? What specialty?
- What personal qualities should a good physician possess? Do you think that you possess these qualities?
  - If you aren't admitted to medical school this time, what are your plans? Suppose you're never admitted?
  - Why did you apply to this medical school? Is it your first choice, or what is your first choice?
  - Describe your research. Your job. Your family.
  - Do you read other than course assignments? What do you read? What is the last book that you read?
  - Do you have any questions of me?

Sample interview questions taken from Kaplan's Medical School Admissions Workbook.



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A Health Professions Interview is granted to all pre-medical and pre-dental students who have completed their health professions file and who meet the academic requirements (see HPO website for academic requirements).

In order to better understand who you are, and how you came to be interested in the health professions, a 2-4 page, single-spaced autobiography must be submitted before the interview.

Letters of recommendation are also required because they support the strengths of your application. I am a good student - here are my grades and letters from professors that agree. I am committed to [medicine] and made my choice based on my volunteer and shadowing experiences - here is a letter from these experiences that supports me and predicts success. I love children and work for them in my free time - here is a letter from the Child Life Program at RWJ or your rescue squad, or your choir director, or your supervisor from work, research mentor, and so on.

There is no such thing as a minimum number of letters. To be a competitive candidate for medicine or dentistry, you will probably collect 5 or more. (The HPO will require you to get at least five). **You should not just get the first and fastest five you can. You should build your collection over the years.**

**Finally, you must have disciplinary clearance.** Which means a clean record with no outstanding, permanent sanctions.

## What is Expected of You

- You are expected to dress as you would for a job interview.
- You are expected to be aware of what is currently going on in the field of medicine.
- You most likely will be asked medical-ethical questions which quite often have no right-or-wrong answer, but students are expected to pick and defend a position. In order to afford students the opportunity to learn more about medical-ethical issues currently facing the health professions, the HPO has posted many articles on the HPO Facebook page.
- Questions about your grades or autobiography may be asked.
- Questions about research you have done may be asked, so brush-up on or find out about the work that was done in the lab.
- Sample interview questions are at the end of this pamphlet.

## What You Can Expect of the Interviewer?

- The interview will be as much as an hour in length.
- It is probable that the interviewer will have reviewed your complete file before the interview.
- The interviewer will write a composite letter about you which will be submitted to the schools to which you apply. The preparation time of this letter varies from committee member to committee member; feel free to ask the interviewer about his/her turn-around time. Additionally, if the interviewer feels that s/he needs to put off completion of your composite statement until receipt of your MCAT scores or other material, it will affect turn-around time. If you recently took the MCAT and the scores are not yet available, you should ask your interviewer if s/he plans on holding-off completion of your composite statement until the scores are received.



## What Happens Next?

- You need to complete a Release Form. They are available in our office or on our website: [www.hpo.rutgers.edu](http://www.hpo.rutgers.edu). (Once on the website, click on the Forms Repository under HPO Resources.)
- Please keep in mind that it is seldom, if ever, possible to release materials immediately; there is usually about a one week delay between receipt of your request and the actual mailing of your materials. Additionally, from July through October, when student release requests are at a peak, the preparation time can be as much as two or three weeks. Remember to plan ahead and turn in your forms in a timely manner.
- For most MD schools, the HPO will upload the letters to AMCAS directly. And for DO schools, we upload the letters to the new AACOMAS portal. Please remember with the new AACOMAS portal we are only allowed one opportunity to upload letters on behalf of a student. Be sure ALL your letters have been received before completing the release form.
- Be aware that some schools will shred the materials they receive about applicants who do not have a file already at their institution. Therefore, wait until after you have begun to receive secondary requests before completing a release form for these schools.
- For DMD schools, we upload the letters to AADSAS directly.