

Commonly Asked Questions For Health Professional School Interviews

Below is a list of questions commonly asked in admission interviews for health professional school programs. Taking the time to practice answering these and other questions will help you to prepare for your interviews. Even if you aren't asked these exact questions, you'll benefit from the time spent thinking about your experiences, strengths, skills and interest in your chosen field of study when you're faced with your actual interviews. Practice answering in front of a mirror, with your friends, a family member or your roommate. Videotaping yourself can be extremely valuable, too.

When formulating your answers, remember that you are in control of what information you convey and how you portray that information. Focus on the positives – the skills you've developed, the experiences you've had, your motivations for pursuing this education – and steer your answers (where appropriate) toward your positive attributes. Avoid dwelling on the negative; instead of focusing on the things you didn't do or a particular bad grade or experience, address the negatives briefly and then redirect your answers toward your strengths. (e.g., "Although my grades in organic chemistry aren't as high as I would have liked, my two years of work in the lab have helped me develop more hands-on experience with O-chem concepts." or "Although I didn't have the opportunity to work with minority populations in my clinical work, my job as a tutor in an inner-city high school exposed me to very diverse students and some of the issues they face.") Good luck and start practicing!

- What made you decide to pursue a career in [your profession]?
- How did you investigate a career in [your profession]?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What skills have you developed outside the classroom?
- How have your personal and volunteer experiences strengthened your goal to enter [your profession]?
- What has been your favorite non-science course and why?
- Why do you want to become a [your profession]?
- What is the greatest obstacle you have had to overcome?
- What teamwork experiences have you had?
- What branch of [your profession] most interests you?
- What issues confront [your profession] today?
- Why are you interested in this particular school?
- What have been the strengths and weaknesses of your college preparation?
- What is your biggest concern about entering professional school?
- What has been your greatest achievement?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
- Describe an experience you had helping others.
- If you are accepted to multiple schools, how will you make your decision?
- What have you read recently in the press about [your profession]?
- What do you believe in?
- What do you care about?
- How does your sense of caring express itself?
- What is your favorite type of teaching style? How do you best learn a new subject?
- Who knows you the best in this world?
- How would that person describe you, and what advice have they provided you?
- Who are your heroes?
- What person, past or present, would you most like to meet?
- What makes you a better applicant than others?
- How do you relax?
- Describe your best teacher and what made her or him unique.
- What was the last book you read?
- Describe an experience where you were misjudged.
- Who are your senators? Congressmen? Governor?
- What was your most difficult or demoralizing experience?
- What is the difference between sympathy and empathy?
- Is there anything you want to brag about or that you need to explain?
- What is the toughest thing about being a patient?
- What type of criticism upsets you?
- Why did you choose this school?
- What will you do next year if you don't get into this program?
- Is this school your first choice?
- Is there anything I haven't asked you that you want to tell me?
- Do you have any questions for me?

Don't stop here! Find additional lists of questions, help with formulating answers, and other interview preparation assistance at <http://career.ucsd.edu/undergraduates/thinking-about-grad-school/application-basics.html#interviewing>. For even more help with these and other issues, visit <http://career.ucsd.edu>, stop by the Career Services Center, or call 858.534.3750 to make an appointment to speak with an advisor.

Questions to Use for Interview Interactive Practice:

1. What made you decide to pursue a career in [your profession]?
2. Why do you want to become a [your profession]?
3. How did you investigate a career in [your profession]?
4. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
5. How have you developed your communication skills?
6. How have your personal and volunteer experiences strengthened your goal to enter [your profession]?
7. Describe an experience you had helping others.
8. What has been your favorite non-science course and why?
9. What is the greatest obstacle you have had to overcome?
10. What will you do next year if you don't get into this program?
11. What have you recently read in the press about your profession and what do you think about that topic?
12. What teamwork experiences have you had?
13. Tell me about the last book you read.
14. What branch of [your profession] most interests you?
15. What issues confront [your profession] today?
16. Who are your heroes? Why?
17. What have been the strengths and weaknesses of your college preparation?
18. What is your biggest concern about entering professional school?
19. What has been your greatest achievement?
20. What are your strengths and weaknesses?