

An Interview Preparation Checklist For Health Professional School Applicants

Preparing for your medical or health professional school interviews can feel overwhelming, so it's helpful to break it into manageable steps. Materials available to help you prepare for your interviews can be found on the list below. Although many are pre-med focused, most resources can be adapted and used by applicants in all fields. Check off as many of these resources and activities as you can, and you'll find yourself on the way to interview-readiness! Find additional materials to help you prepare for interviews at <http://career.ucsd.edu/undergraduates/thinking-about-grad-school/application-basics.html#interviewing>.

STEP 1: KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT – THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS INTERVIEW

- Read the UCSD Career Services Center's [Professional School Admissions Interview](#) handout.
- Attend a workshop on interviewing preparation in the Career Services Center in Fall or Winter quarter.
- Learn about the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process. Many medical and dental schools are transitioning to this format.

STEP 2: GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE PROCESS – PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT (OR AT LEAST BETTER PREPARED)

- Think about the questions you might be asked. Check out commonly asked questions and tips on suggested answers at http://www.mymedline.com/premed/int_sampleqa.php3. Think about what your answers to these questions would be. Find other common questions in the resources in Step 1 above.
- Practice answering ethical scenario questions and think hard about your personal values and philosophy because chances are you may be faced with discussing them in some way.
- Brush up on current issues in your chosen field of study – chances are you'll be asked about them. Use the websites for each profession (you can find links at <http://career.ucsd.edu>) and online journals and periodicals.
- Get online, on-camera practice with Interview Stream. Use your own webcam or come in to the Career Services Center to use ours. Log on to Port Triton for details.
- Practice interviewing by answering questions in front of your mirror or have a friend or family member ask you questions to work on your answers and delivery.

STEP 3: NARROW YOUR FOCUS – LEARN THE SPECIFIC PRACTICES OF THE SCHOOLS AT WHICH YOU'RE INTERVIEWING

- For each school you interview with, do your homework! Learn all you can about that school, the program you're applying for and something about the city it's in. Use the schools' websites, the synopses in the admissions requirements books for your field, and any other printed materials you have for this research. Pre-med students can also use www.amsa.org/premed/medsurvey for information on medical schools from a student perspective.
- Learn about other students' experience at each school's interviews on www.studentdoctor.net (Click "Interview Feedback" for M.D. and D.O., dental, pharmacy, optometry, podiatry, veterinary, audiology and psychology school specific information) and www.mdphds.org/programs.shtml (MD/PhD program feedback).
- Develop questions that you can ask your interviewers. Use your research about the schools to show you've done your homework and that you're interested in that *specific* school.

STEP 4: WRAP IT UP – FOLLOW UP, ASSESS YOUR PERFORMANCE AND GET ON WITH THE SHOW

- Promptly send handwritten thank-you notes to each interviewer. (Email is okay if they are deliberating soon.) Personalize the notes with details from your interview to refresh their memory of your interview.
- Prepare for your next interview, or – if that was the last one – relax and wait for the results of your hard work!

For help with these resources call 858.534.3750 for an appointment with an advisor, visit <http://career.ucsd.edu> for more information,. Good luck and have fun preparing!