



How to Prepare for Interviews for Internships, Residencies, & Fellowships

This document provides both words of advice and an intensive list of questions that various programs have asked prospective interviewees. While not comprehensive, these questions will allow you to prepare for professional interviews within the medical field.

Words of Advice

- **Practice Interviewing**
 - Practice will make you calmer, more organized, and help you sound better during the real interview.
 - Practice with friends, mentors, anyone who can and will take the time to help you!
- **Make Sure You Know Yourself**
 - Make a list of your top strengths, goals, values, accomplishments and abilities - this will most likely provide your answers for a majority of the questions.
 - TOP 5 PLAN - go into every interview with 5 key things you want a program to know about you.
 - What makes you a good candidate? What makes you unique?
 - Create a checklist of things you want/need in a residency program
 - *Make sure you have questions to ask the program too – this will make you look even more prepared and will also help you determine if the program is the right fit for you!*
 - Rank your needs/wants in order of importance to you.
 - Write down pros and cons for each program immediately after your visits to help you later on when you decide on rankings.
 - Be prepared to discuss any glitches in your academic record.
- **Review your own medical school file**
 - Review your application, personal statement and curriculum vitae and prepare yourself to discuss anything that you've mentioned on them, including any research that you've done.
 - Carry copies of your CV, personal statement and transcripts, your list of questions you wish to have answered, and a note pad with on interview day.
 - Never lie or overstate something in your file

- If you have something questionable/problematic now is the time to prepare how you will address it because it will most likely be asked about during your interview
- Make sure you can explain and describe EVERYTHING you list on your CV (including research from college if you include it) – you never know what they will ask and you want to be as prepared as possible
- ***While Waiting to Interview Remember the Four A's: Attention, Attitude, Action, Affect***

Questions to Prepare For

General

1. Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
2. Tell me about yourself.
3. Describe yourself in one word.
4. Why do you want to be a physician?
5. Why do you want to go into (insert specialty here)?
6. What are your ultimate career plans? Are you planning on a subspecialty? What field?
7. How do you feel about the practice of medicine today? What about its future? (i.e. malpractice, insurance, reimbursements, etc.)
8. Tell me something about you that is not on your CV.
9. Give me some one-word descriptors of yourself.
10. What qualities/strengths make you a good physician?
11. What is a weakness or area for development?
12. Tell me about your hometown/college/medical school.
13. Why did you choose the medical school that you attended?
14. Who is your role model? Why?
15. What type of leadership qualities do you think a physician needs – which ones do you currently possess and how do you intend to develop the others?

Program Specifics

1. Briefly describe What are three things you look for in a residency program?
2. Why do you want to come to this program? What makes this program appealing/special to you?
3. What do you hope to gain from our residency program?
4. Why should we want you to come to our program? What will you/can you bring to our program?
5. What are some issues you perceive in doing a residency here?
6. What do you imagine a typical day is like?
7. Why don't you want to explore a different program from the one you've done rotations with already?

Activities Outside of Medicine

1. Briefly describe your student research project (if you have any)?
2. Do you plan on research as being a part of your career?
3. What do you like to do for fun? What are some of your hobbies/interest/extra-curricular activities?
4. If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be and why?

Interpersonal Skills / Situational Questions

1. Describe the best/worst incident that you encountered in your medical school career.
2. Be ready for situation questions like, "What would you do if...", "What did you learn from X experience?"
3. Name one conflict and tell us how you dealt with it.
4. How do you deal with people you don't get along with?
5. What do you do when someone you work with disagrees with you?
6. Tell me about a difficult situation you encountered with a doctor. How did it end?
7. What would you do if your team did not accept your recommendation? If it was a life threatening situation, and you did your research, and they still don't accept it – what then?
8. Would you say you're a leader or a follower? Why?
9. Do you see yourself working in a team?
10. How do you deal with an uncomfortable situation?
11. Tell me about one hardship you faced during a clinical rotation and how you handled it.
12. Describe a time when you were overwhelmed and how you overcame it.
13. What would you do if 6 months into internship your wife says she is unhappy with your schedule and wants you to choose between her and your residency?
14. What type of candy would you be and why?

Clinical

1. Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?
2. Tell me about your presentation on X
3. Prioritize 3 clinical situations.
4. If you were in code blue and had another one go off, what would you do?
5. A patient comes in with hypotension. What do you do?
6. What would you do if you were faced with a medication error where the patient is given the wrong medication?
7. What was the last medically related article that you read recently?
8. What do you do outside of school to learn and contribute to the profession?
9. Do you belong to any professional organizations? In what capacity?
10. If you were an anesthesia drug, which would you be and why?

Resources & References

[American College of Physicians](#)

[Big Interview.com](#)

[UCSF](#)

[US News](#)

[AAMC](#)

[University of Arizona Medical School](#)