



Interview Questions to Ask for Internships, Residencies, & Fellowships

This document provides an intensive list of questions to guide inquiries about various programs. You should be prepared to ask questions. Remember that you are interviewing the program as much as they are interviewing you, and you need to be prepared with a list of thoughtful questions. Asking questions will give you info on the program and help you decide if it's the right one for you. It also shows your interest in the program. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the program ahead of time, and visit their website prior to the interview.

General Information

1. How is education and patient care balanced at this institution?
2. What type of housing is available, if any? How close is it to the office? What is the cost?
3. How are meals for trainees handled?
4. Is there a library, and if so, is it easily accessible in the hospital and/or in the clinic? What resources does it provide?
5. Is there an intern or resident that I can talk to for more information about your program(s) once I leave today?
6. How is call handled and how often?
7. Based on the other residency and fellowships provided, how much hands on experience can I expect to get from those specialties that are not my own? Do they get the 'pick of the litter' or are patients 'fair game'?
8. Do you have any community service programs?
9. What is the success of graduates of the program? What have former residents done upon completion of their residency?
10. What kind of patient population is serviced?
11. What types of cases do you see a lot of?
12. Are residents in this program expected to assist in the teaching of medical students?

General Questions to Ask a Current Intern/Resident

1. What was the most important factor that made you decide to come to this program?
Would you consider the same program if applying again?
2. How do you view your peers and trainees that are behind you?
3. Is it a positive working environment?
4. What do you do for fun outside of training?
5. What do you like most about this program?
6. If one thing could be changed about this program what would it be?
7. Is the program responsive to suggestions for change?
8. How accessible is the faculty?

Training

1. What kind of orientation is provided to trainees on their first day/week?
2. What is the basic makeup of an intern/resident schedule during the year? What 'rotations' are mandatory and then how many electives does one have each year? Are there any 'rotations' that are not done at the main institution/the clinic?
3. Are there opportunities to do "away" rotations?
4. What and how much training is provided as in patient versus out patient?
5. Does time at the clinic/ambulatory site take precedence over other services or visa versa? How far away is the clinic? Is there training in office management provided, including hiring, firing, billing, etc?
6. Do you have an opportunity to train with more than one person from service to service?
7. Are patient work up and treatment recommendations reviewed and discussed? With what type of supervision?
8. Are progress notes countersigned by trainers?
9. Are there formal evaluations completed throughout the year and if so, how often are they discussed with the intern/resident? Who evaluates who? Is there a feedback structure that allows for the resident to evaluate the program's curriculum?
10. Is attendance at regional and national conferences encouraged? Is it funded, and, if so, to what degree?
11. When you switch services, how are old and new patients handed off to the next caretaker?
12. Is ongoing training in OMT offered? How is it modeled and supervised by attending physicians? How is it documented and integrated with the H&P?
13. Are research opportunities provided to residents? Is this a required experience?
14. Is there a possibility of "protected" time for research?
15. How are fellowships handled?

Academics

1. Is there a formal didactic curriculum, and what is its structure?
2. What other programs exist for resident education? Does the program give reading assignments/suggestions? Is there a journal club? How often do they meet?
3. What kinds of resources are provided? Up to date? PubMed?
4. How much hands on teaching is done by the attendings on various services? Is it mainly self-driven?