

SAMPLE HEALTH PROFESSION INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Why you are interested in pursuing a career as a [physician, dentist, physician-assistant, physical-therapist, nurse, etc.]? When did you first become interested in [medicine, dentistry, nursing, physical therapy, etc.]?
3. Give me an example that illustrates your greatest strength? And why? What is your greatest weakness?
4. Tell me about your research. What was your role? Do you see research playing a significant role in your later professional career?
5. Describe a time you worked with a difficult person.
6. Considering you and other applicants have similar grades, test-scores, etc., please describe what additional skills set you apart from the rest? Why would you be an asset to our program?
7. Admission into our program is highly competitive. What do you plan to do if you are not accepted at this time?
8. Tell me about your family. Any healthcare professionals in your family?
9. Tell me something about you that I cannot learn from your application materials.
10. Why did you choose your major/college/career path? How did your major prepare you for medicine? Would you change your choice of major if you started over?
11. Tell me about a situation in which you displayed leadership ability.
12. Describe a few situations in which your work has been criticized.
13. If you could not be a physician, what career would you choose?
14. No career is perfect. What do you think are the pitfalls of the profession?
15. How would your friends describe you?
16. How did COVID impact you and how did you overcome that impact?
17. How do you schedule your time and set priorities? How do you handle twenty things at once?
18. Who are your role models?
19. Tell me about a time when you received negative feedback on your performance and how you handled this situation.
20. I must convince the rest of the Admissions Committee that we should accept you over other applicants. What would you tell them to convince them? Why should we accept you?
21. Why did you decide to choose this field and not some other field where you can help others, such as teaching, psychology, education, social work, or other healthcare pathway?
22. Thinking of examples from your recent past, how would you assess your empathy and compassion?
23. What do you know about the current trends in our nation's healthcare system? How would you change the health care system?
24. If you could be a superhero what kind of superhero would you be?
25. What are the three most important characteristics of a [physician/dentist/physician-assistant/etc.]?

26. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
27. What were the last three books you read?
28. What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?
29. Do you think health care is a “natural right” or a “freedom of choice”?
30. Do your grades accurately reflect your ability?
31. What are your thoughts about the recent increase in parents who refuse to vaccinate their kids?
32. Describe a situation where you were under a lot of pressure. How did you handle the stress?
33. Describe a time when you made a mistake. How did you handle it?
34. Describe a time you worked on a team. What role did you play?
35. Describe a time when you realized you needed to make an improvement in your communication skills. What was the situation and how did you manage it?
36. What was your most difficult decision in the last six months? What made it difficult?
37. Tell me about an ethical choice or decision that you have had to make.
38. Working with people from different backgrounds or cultures can present challenges. Describe a time when differences in background made communication or work challenging. How did you handle the situation?
39. Listening is a valuable tool. Describe a time when good listening skills helped you overcome a communication problem.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

40. Why did you apply to this school?
41. What other schools did you apply to?
42. Why are you interested in Osteopathic Medicine? Why are you interested in [insert dual-degree program]?
43. Are you interested in border medicine? What types of patient populations are you interested in working with?
44. Are you interested in this region as a place to settle/practice?
45. Are there any specific features of our school that interest you?
46. How do you think you would contribute to our student body?
47. What is it about our school which makes you think it would be a good fit for you?
48. If you were accepted to your state University would you still want to come to here? Why?

MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEW (MMI) QUESTIONS:

49. A patient has just been diagnosed with stage IV cancer with a terrible prognosis. You know that he will most likely die within 9 months regardless of course of treatment. The patient is visibly upset and concerned for his future. What do you tell the patient? How do you go about this difficult situation?
50. As a medical student, you are asked to obtain consent from an elderly woman for a hernia repair. You notice that she is hard of hearing and does not really understand what you are telling her but nods her head as you speak. When you exit the room and tell the resident of this problem, she replies, “Just get it done.” How do you react?

51. A member of your family decides to depend solely on alternative medicine for the treatment of his or her significant illness. What would you do?
52. A close friend in one of your university classes tells you that his mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. He feels overwhelmed by his studies and is considering dropping his courses to spend more time with his mother. How do you counsel your friend?
53. Joe is a pizza delivery worker. The pizza shop he works for has a 30 minutes or less delivery guarantee or else the customer does not have to pay. On Joe's most recent delivery, he spots a woman who appears to be injured. There is no one else around and the woman seems to be unable to move by herself. However, Joe knows that if he returns empty handed again, he will be fired from this job which he most desperately needs. What do you think Joe should do? Justify your solution in terms of practical and ethical considerations.
54. You have a terminally ill patient who does not speak English. The son is translating and does not want the father to know he is dying. How would handle the situation?
55. In healthcare professions you will be required to establish good working relationships with people from all walks of life. Talk about what you think will be your strengths and challenges in establishing these relationships with your future clients. Will you have more success or challenges in relation to: young versus old clients, clients from different cultures, clients at different levels of health.
56. A biotech company was hired by the Military to develop a cure for Ebola. They successfully developed a vaccine to treat the symptoms of the virus and lowered the mortality rate for infected patients. Discuss the implications of this on a global scale.
57. How would you react if a colleague wanted you to keep a medical error that they kept secret from a patient?
58. What would you do if a 15-year-old came into your clinic and wanted an abortion?
59. What would you do if you were seeing a patient in the emergency room and he or she wants to leave against medical advice?
60. What do you think about physician-assisted suicide? Alternative medicine?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR INTERVIEWERS:

Curriculum

61. Are there any special programs for which this program is noted for?
62. Please tell me more about the integrated curriculum.
63. What modalities are used for student lectures?
64. What are the opportunities for research? What are the policies for taking time off for research opportunities?
65. How do students get assistance if an academic need arises?
66. Is there flexibility in the coursework (the number of electives) and the timing of the courses (accelerating, decelerating, and time off) during the pre-clinical and clinical years?
67. Are standardized tests used such as the NBME shelf exams?
68. Has this school, or any of its clinical departments, been on probation or had its accreditation revoked?
69. How do students from this school perform on the National Board Examinations or licensing exams? How does the school assist students who do not pass?

Evaluations

70. How are students evaluated academically? How are clinical evaluations performed?

71. Is there a formal mechanism in place for students to evaluate their professors and attending physicians? What changes have been made recently because of this feedback?
72. What types of counseling and student support does your program offer?
73. What kind of academic, personal, financial, and career counseling is available to students? Are these services also offered to their spouses and dependents/children?
74. Is there a mentor/advisor system? Who are the advisors—faculty members, other students, or both?
75. How diverse is the student body? Are there support services or organizations for ethnic/cultural minorities, LGBT students, and women?

Facilities

76. Tell me about the library and extracurricular facilities (i.e., housing and athletic/recreational facilities). Is designated study space available?
77. What type of clinical sites—ambulatory, private preceptors, private hospitals, rural settings, international—are available or required for clerkships? Does this school allow for students to do rotations at other institutions or internationally?

Financial Aid

78. What is the current tuition and fees? Is this expected to increase yearly? If so, at what rate?
79. Are there stable levels of federal financial aid and substantial amounts of university/medical school endowment aid available to students?
80. Are there students who have an "unmet need" factor in their budget? If so, how do these students come up with the extra funds?
81. Are spouses and dependents/children covered in a student's budget?
82. Are there services/staff available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
83. Does this school provide guidance to its students and to its graduates/alumni, on debt management?

Student Involvement

84. What school committees (e.g., curriculum committee) have student representation?
85. Are students involved in (required or voluntary) community service?
86. How active is the student council/government? Are there other active student organizations?

Residency/Job Placement

87. May I see a list of residency programs to which this school's recent graduates were accepted?
88. What is the full-time employment rate and/or job placement for recent graduates of your program?

REGARDING GENDER IDENTITY AND ATTIRE: *Your research on a particular employer or field, in addition to your comfort level, will assist in your choice to wear clothes associated with your gender identity or to wear gender-neutral clothing.*

BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL
BUSINESS CASUAL

- SUITS**
- Long-sleeve suit in black, grey or navy
 - Jacket must match bottoms
 - Skirt should be knee length
- SHIRTS AND TIES**
- White or light-colored shirt or blouse
 - Conservative tie; no distracting prints
 - Tie should reach belt
- PANTS**
- Not too tight or baggy
 - Pant leg should touch front of shoe
- SHOES**
- Neutral flats or pumps with a 1-2" heel
 - Polished, leather shoes with dark socks that match
- ACCESSORIES**
- Simple and conservative jewelry
 - Small purse or professional bag
 - Padfolio or portfolio for resumes

- JACKETS/TOPS**
- Sports coat, blazer or suite jacket
 - Sweater or cardigan
 - Polo shirt or button down shirt
- PANTS/BOTTOMS**
- Dress pants, khakis or dark jeans
 - Skirt or appropriate dress
- ACCESSORIES**
- Tie optional

- WE ASK THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM WEARING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**
- **HATS** - fedoras, baseball caps, beanies, berets or cowboy hats
 - **T-SHIRTS** - short sleeved shirts, tank tops, cut-off shirts; no exposed backs, arms or midriffs
 - **ATHLETIC GEAR** - sweatpants, workout shorts, yoga pants or hooded sweatshirts
 - **SHORTS** - cargo, denim or khaki
 - **JEANS** - ripped, cut-offs or light-wash denim; must fit appropriately, not too baggy or too tight
 - **SHOES** - flip-flops, casual sandals or sneakers/tennis shoes
 - **ACCESSORIES** - large or distracting jewelry around the neck, ears or hands, large hair accessories, or multiple pieces of jewelry around the neck, ears or hands

PROFESSIONAL DRESS RESOURCES:

- **CAREER GEAR, GREATER HOUSTON:** Career gear is a local Houston resource for men to gain professional dress assistance. For more information: <http://www.careergearhouston.org/index.html>
- **DRESS FOR SUCCESS HOUSTON:** Dress for Success is a local Houston resource for women to gain professional dress assistance. For more information: <http://dfshouston.org/>
- **UCS CAREER CLOSET:** The UCS Career Closet is an initiative supported by UH to offer UH students assistance through professional dress rental. Interested students should schedule a Career Closet appointment through Cougar Pathway.

WHAT IS THE STAR METHOD?

The STAR Method is a technique to answer interview questions. This method helps you outline the exact content an employer would like to learn from an interview answer.

SITUATION:

- Define the general context
- Who/What/When
- Mention the problem you had to overcome

TASK:

- Identify the key objective and issue that you were responsible for accomplishing

ACTION:

- Describe the action you took or initiated, emphasizing the skills you used to complete the task

RESULTS:

- Summarize the outcome in business terms, giving detail and quantifying when possible

Develop a **STAR** example for the question below. These statements can also add value to your elevator pitch, cover letter and interviews. Depending on your targeted position during your career search, you may want to revise these statements to make them more relevant.

Tell us about a time you work in a team to achieve a goal; what was your role and the outcome?

SITUATION:

TASK:

ACTION:

RESULTS: