

List of Possible Medical School Interview Questions

Questions about your Education

- Do you feel like you are well-positioned to succeed in medical school?
- How has your academic experience prepared you for success in medical school?
- What skills do you think you have gained from your undergraduate education that will translate to success in a medical program?
- Why did you choose your undergraduate major/minor?
- How have you tried to achieve breadth in your undergraduate curriculum?
- How has your undergraduate research experience, if any, better prepared you for a medical career?
- How have the jobs, volunteer opportunities, or extracurricular experiences that you have had better prepared you for the responsibilities of being a physician?
- How do you envision using your medical education?
- What coursework or area did you find most fulfilling?
- Was there a time when you struggled academically? How did you overcome it?
- Are there any aspects of your undergraduate education that you would change?

Questions about Your Character and Personality

- What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- How have you overcome your weaknesses?
- What is an example of when your weakness was in the spotlight? How did you overcome/manage it?
- How have you used your strengths to get where you are today?
- What travels have you taken and what exposure to other cultures have you had?
- Thinking of examples from your recent past, how would you assess your empathy and compassion?
- As a pre-med, what skills have you learned to help manage your time and relieve stress?
- If you could be granted three wishes for making the world/society/ your community a better place, what would they be and why (or, if you were given a million dollars to achieve three goals, what would you work on and why)?
- What do you do for fun?
- What is “success” in your opinion? After 20 years as a physician, what kind of “success” would you hope to have achieved? Please explain
- What qualities do you look for in a physician? Can you provide an example of a physician who embodies any of these ideals? How do they do this?
- What kind of experiences have you had working with sick people? Have these experiences taught you anything that you didn’t know beforehand?
- Do you have any family members or role models who are physicians?
- What family members, friends, or other individuals have been influential in your decision to pursue a medical career?
- If you could invite four people from the past to dinner, who would they be, and why would you invite them? What would you talk about?
- Does your academic record reflect any major challenges? If so, what are they and why did they occur?

Medicine-Related Questions

- What excites you about medicine in general?
- What does not excite you about entering a medical career?
- What do you know about the current trends in our nation's healthcare system?
- What do you believe to be some of the most pressing health issues today? Why?
- What do you feel are the negative or restrictive aspects of medicine from a professional standpoint?
- If you had to choose between clinical and academic medicine as a profession, which would you pick? What do you feel you might lose by being forced to choose?

Society Related Questions

- Do you think that socialized medicine is the answer to many of the issues faced by the medical field?
- In general, the level of trust in medical professionals has decreased in the last 2 decades. Why do you think that has happened?
- What do you feel are the social responsibilities of a physician?
- What do you consider an important/the most important social problem facing the United States today and why?
- How do you think national health insurance affects physicians, patients, and society?
- In what manner and to what degree do you stay in touch with current events?
- What books, films, or other media come to mind as having been particularly important to your sciences/non-sciences education?
- Can you think of any examples in our society when healthcare is a right? When is it a privilege? When is it not clear?

Questions about Ethics

- Are you aware of any current controversies in the area of medical ethics? List and discuss some of these.
- Have you personally encountered any moral dilemmas to date? Of what nature?
- How do you feel about euthanasia or medically assisted suicide?
- What different feelings and issues might you experience with a terminally ill patient, as opposed to other patients?
- How would you feel about treating a patient who has tested positive for HIV?
- What are some of the ethical issues that our society considers in regard to teenage pregnancy?
- Assume there are limited resources available and you must make decisions in a major emergency with a wide assortment of patients from all ages, backgrounds, and degrees of injury. Assume also that there is no "right answer" to this question, only considered and unconsidered responses. Who would you direct to receive the treatment first and why?

Questions about Diversity

- Do you feel like you belong in a medical career? What barriers have you encountered as a result of your race/gender/ethnicity?
- If you are a minority candidate, how do you feel your background uniquely prepares you to be and will influence your role as a physician?
- If you are a woman, how has your gender impacted your decision to pursue a medical career?
- If you are not a minority, how might you best meet the needs of a multiethnic, multicultural patient population?
- If you are economically disadvantaged or have limited financial means, how has this adversity shaped you?
- To what extent do you feel that you owe a debt to other people? To what extent do you owe a debt to those less fortunate than yourself? Please explain.

Questions about Medical School

- What advice would you give a high school student who wants to pursue a medical career?
- What interests you about the curriculum (or unique experiences) at our medical school?
- What makes you interested in osteopathic medical school over allopathic medical school?
- What kind of environment are you looking for during your medical training?
- What special qualities do you feel you possess that set you apart from other medical school candidates? What makes you unique or different as a medical school candidate?
- What kind of medical schools are you applying to, and why?
- Pick any specific medical school to which you are applying, and tell the interviewer about it. What makes this school particularly desirable to you?
- What general and specific skills would you hope an ideal medical school experience would give you? How might your ideal school achieve that result?

Questions about Your Motivation

- If a medical career was not an option, what other career interests you? Why?
- Why do you want to become a medical doctor?
- How do your parents feel about your decision to enter a medical career?
- Have you had second thoughts about your decision to pursue a medical career?
- Discuss your decision to pursue medicine. When did you decide to become an MD, and why?
- Why did you decide to choose medicine and not some other field where you can help others, such as nursing, physical therapy, pharmacology, psychology, education, or social work?
- How have you tested your motivation to become an MD? Please explain.
- What will you do if you are not accepted to medical school this year? Have you an alternative career plan?
- Is there anything else we have not covered that you feel the interviewer should know about you or your interest in becoming a doctor?

