

Tough Interview Questions

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• Application Process

- Success in medical school + Determine a field of interest + Research a bunch of programs + CV, LORs, Personal Statement, Grades, and + ...a little luck = **Invite to Interview :0)**

• Toughest Questions You Should Never be Asked

- ***Why were you rude to the admin over the phone?*** Your interview starts as soon as you get the invite. Be nice to everyone!!! While there is nobody who can “get you in”, there are a lot of people who can “keep you out”.
- ***Why did you kick food under Dr. Mulholland’s couch last night?*** Someone is watching you at all times...be a responsible adult.
- ***So...how many glasses of wine did you have at the pre-interview dinner?*** It is okay to stay well within your limit, but this is not a Friday night party with your friends. Easy to do, especially early on with nerves. Can stay out with residents, but be mindful of the long day ahead.
- ***Why did you fall asleep during the morning presentation?*** Sometimes tough when the lights go down. Get a good night’s rest if possible. Stay engaged and pay attention (it is generally going to be good information).
- ***Where did you get the hot pink suit?*** Men – dark suit, cleaned shirt, professional tie, shined shoes. Women – business suit or equivalent, skirts are knee length or longer, professional jewelry/make-up. Night before only SLIGHTLY more casual
- ***Why did you have famous Dr. X write you a letter of recommendation when they clearly do not know you?*** Carefully consider who you ask to write your letters of recommendation. Famous is good – but a “says nothing” letter is useless.
- ***Why are there typos in your personal statement?*** Read, re-read, re-re-read, and re-re-re-read your personal statement.
- ***How come I was unable to find the manuscript cited on your CV on Pubmed?*** Only list things that you have actually published. “In preparation” needs to mean that you can actually talk about the results of the study.

- ***Are you playing Candy Crush level 542 on your phone? I can't beat that level, any tips?*** Turn your phone off and put it away for the entire day. Stay engaged with the residents and other applicants while you are in between interviews.
- ***Where did you buy that bong in your Facebook photo, dude?*** In the age of social media, you need to be aware of what is out there. Be aware of photos drinking, smoking, little clothing, illegal activities....

• **So, What Should Happen on Interview Day?**

- ***How to Prepare:*** Practice, practice and more practice. Know your CV inside and out – if it is on there, someone will ask you about it – and you must know about it. Know the most common questions and your answers to those questions. Accept there will be tough situations – recognize them and have fun.
- ***The Atypical Questions:*** Ethical arguments. Drawing/carving something. Abstract questions. Argumentative questions. Illegal questions (disabilities, partners, etc.).
- ***Typical Questions - Surgery:*** Why do you want to be a surgeon? Why do you want to be a _____ surgeon? How did you decide to be a surgeon? What is your plan if you do not match? What was your favorite case? What is the biggest challenge facing surgery?
- ***Typical Questions – You:*** Tell me about yourself? Tell me about your family? What are you most proud of in life? What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? Why should we take you over all the others?
- ***Typical Questions – Future:*** What are your goals in the future? Where will you be in 5, 10, or 20 years? What will be your contribution to medicine? What will make you one of the leaders and best? What type of practice do you plan to have?
- ***Typical Questions – CV:*** What made you choose your medical school? What are you most proud of on your CV? Tell me about research project ____? Tell me about group ____? Parlez-vous francais? Tell me about your favorite hobby?
- ***Typical Questions – Program:*** Why are you interested in Michigan? What have you heard about Michigan? Where else did you rotate as a Sub-I? Would you be happy living in Ann Arbor? What weaknesses in our program concern you?
- ***Typical Questions – Other:*** Tell me about an ethical dilemma you were involved in. How did you deal with it? Have you ever harmed a patient with a medical care? What is your dream job outside of medicine? What one word describes you?
- ***Typical Questions – The End:*** What questions do you have for me about the program?