



Pre-Health Advising

Pre-Professional Advising Office

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Pre-Health Interview Prep

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Pre-Health Advisors | Pre-Professional Advising Office

Office of the Vice President for Instruction



Interviewer's Perspective

- Time is scarce
 - Show interviewer their time is valued
- Students who will complete program
 - Directives from state with funding
 - Accepting one means rejecting another
- A good fit
 - Match with school mission
 - Gets along with other applicants
 - Enthusiastic about program



Show Interviewer's Time is Valued

- Dress (we will discuss at end)
- Preparedness
 - Review and practice
- Planning
 - Arrive early and calm

Communicate in multiple ways that the interview is important to you!



Review Before Interview

- Personal Inventory
 - Your characteristics, interests, experiences
- Application
 - Questions come from application
- Program's Website
 - Why this school
 - Topics for your questions



Personal Inventory

1. Why this career?
2. All your characteristics good for this profession
3. All experiences – note leadership
4. Connect experiences to 1
5. All your travels – domestic and international – connect to 1 & 2
6. Awards, scholarships
7. Challenging times/situations – lessons learned
8. Strengths and weaknesses
9. Top 3 problems in your field of healthcare according to you
10. Where you will be 5, 10, 20 years from now
11. Personal and professional goals
12. Free-time activities – hobbies and sports

Source: [The Medical School Interview](#)



Overarching Issues of Admission Committee

- Your experience in this field
 - Shadowing, working
- Make it to and in this profession
 - Academics, self-care, expectations
- Awareness of healthcare issues
 - Your ideas and opinions are realistic
- Do you “fit” in our program
 - Mission and cohort

Most questions fit within these areas. Your personal inventory will address most questions.

Source: [The Medical School Interview](#)



Your Answer: Rule of 3

- Well-rounded
 - Just the right amount of information
- Easy to recall
 - A pattern in short-term memory
- Builds confidence

Recall three aspects
when responding to
most questions.



Rule of 3 with a Brief Back-up

- Examples of back-up:
 - Where you practiced this characteristic in your application experiences
 - Ex: Extra Special People
 - An example of the characteristic in action
 - Ex: Interaction with someone
 - Why this characteristic is important to you

Don't just list three aspects: Use each as place holders for the details



STAR Method

- Situation
 - Set the scene
- Task
 - Your role/responsibility
- Action
 - Steps you took to address it
- Results
 - The outcome of your action

“Tell me about...”
Challenge
Conflict
Success
Failure (include
lesson learned)



Answers to Prepare in Advance

- Tell me about yourself (Ro3)
- Why this career (Ro3)
- What would you do if you can't do this career (why Ro3)
- Why this school (Ro3)
- Strengths and weaknesses (2S, 1W)
- A challenge you overcame (STAR)
- A time of conflict (STAR)
- Something you are proud of (STAR)
- A failure (STAR)
- Top issues in your field (Ro3)

Ro3: Rule of 3 –
three aspects with
details

STAR: Situation,
Task, Action,
Result (lesson from
failure)



Tough Answers to Prepare in Advance

- What will you do if you are not accepted anywhere?
- Are we your top choice?
- "Left Field" Questions

Not Accepted:
How will you utilize your growth year?

Top Choice: If using the CAS system they can see everywhere you applied. Don't Lie! Answer diplomatically.

"Left Field:" Don't get flustered or give up! This is about your attitude more than your answer.



Answering Ethical Questions

- No firm right/wrong answer – OK to take a stance and say why
- Looking for your thought process – say what you are thinking
- Don't make assumptions – identify unknowns
- Use empathy – address the perspective of each involved
 - “I believe X, but I can see the struggle this person has...”



Prepare Questions to ask Program

- Specific to their program
 - Not answered on their site
- Evaluate student support
- Follow up on topics addressed earlier
- Tip: have 3 prepared Q's
- Write questions on your notepad
 - OK to take notes



Preparing for In-Person Interview

- Dress for success checklist (Slide 21)
- Plan to arrive early and calm
- Rest and nourishment



Preparing for Virtual Interview

- Check equipment – webcam, connection
- Environment – avoid cluttered background, moving fans
- Raise screen – avoid looking down
- Set up workstation – take notes on paper, show ID
- Wear your suit
- Arrive early

You may reserve an interview room at the Career Center



During the Virtual Interview


- Maintain good posture and eye contact
 - TIP: raise computer camera to eye level
- Turn off cell phone
- Avoid distractions from pets and roommates
- Don't type notes
- Make sure others are not using bandwidth
- Take your turn in group interviews
- TIP: Book a room at the Career Center




Mock Interview

Mock interview is a great way to prepare! The PPAO will conduct the mock MMIs, and the Career Center will conduct the mock interviews. If you have been invited to interview with a program that conducts MMIs, you can register for a mock MMI [here](#). Request a general a mock interview with the Career Center through Handshake

UGA PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISING OFFICE
UGA CAREER CENTER

 Pre-Professional
Advising Office
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

presents..

 UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Career Center

MOCK INTERVIEWS & MMIs

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR
STUDENTS WHO HAVE
BEEN INVITED TO
INTERVIEW AT A HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1) VISIT [HTTP://PPAO.UGA.EDU](http://ppao.uga.edu)
- 2) CLICK [INTERVIEW PREPARATION]
- 3) CLICK [MOCK MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEW] OR [MOCK INTERVIEW]
- 4) READ THE PAGE ACCORDINGLY
- 5) REGISTER FOR AN INTERVIEW & SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS!



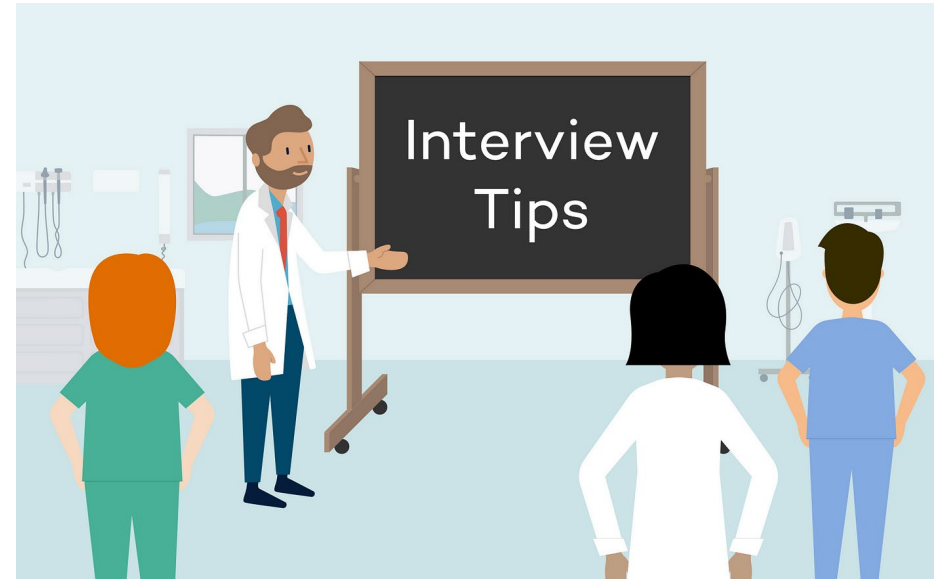
Thank You Email After the Interview

- Send a thank you email
 - Within 24 hours of interview
 - Personalized for each interviewer, if possible
 - General admissions email
- Greeting (ex: Hello Dr. Jones,), Closing (ex: Best Regards,), Your first and last name (under closing)
- Message Outline (about 100 words):
 - Say thank you for the interview
 - Tell them you are excited about the opportunity to attend
 - Tell why the school appeals to you
 - If personalized, mention a connection at interview



Final Tips

- Show genuineness, authenticity, and enthusiasm
- Showcase your unique abilities, accomplishments, experiences and ideas
- Stay positive – sometimes they are testing your patience
- Care for the interviewer – they are your advocate
- If you are not having fun, they are not having fun



What to Wear to Your Job Interview

Interview Attire for Men:

Clean shaven face or neatly trimmed beard

Two-piece suit

- Cleaned and pressed
- Conservative colors like navy and dark gray

Long-sleeve shirt, even in summer

- White or light blue solid color

Empty pockets to eliminate bulges

Conservative tie

Belt matching color of shoes

Leather shoes, black or cordovan

- Polish night before

No earrings

Clean, trimmed fingernails



Tips

- ! Lay out your interview outfit the evening before and check for stains, tears or missing buttons.
- ! Make sure your interview clothing is clean and well pressed.
- ! Except for women's earrings, avoid body-piercing jewelry.
- ! Avoid perfume, cologne, and aftershave.
- ! Men should be clean-shaven. A carefully trimmed beard or mustache is also acceptable. Avoid stubble that looks like a few days of growth.
- ! If possible, cover your tattoos.
- ! Wear clothes that fit.
- ! Do not wear flashy jewelry or watches.



Interview Attire for Women:

Two-piece, matched suit

- Skirt should cover thighs when seated
- Navy, black, gray or dark brown

Tailored blouse, shell or knit top

- Do not show cleavage
- Avoid gaping at chest

Leather Shoes

- No stilettos or platforms

Carry only one bag or tote

Avoid perfume

Avoid heavy makeup

Clean, trimmed fingernails

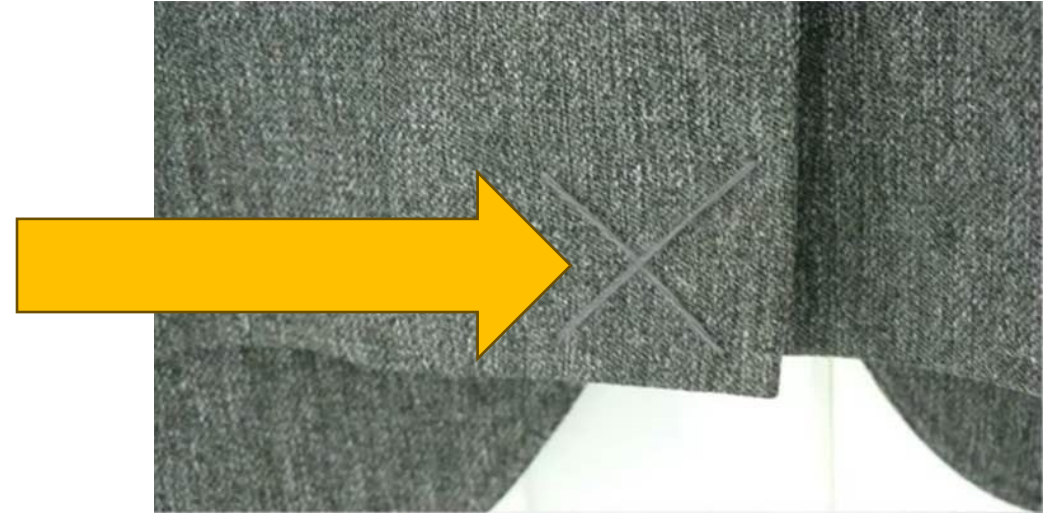


You only get one chance to make a good first impression with a potential employer. The clothes you wear are the first part of that first impression, so dress to impress. A business suit says you mean business, even though it may make you feel overdressed and uncomfortable. It shows that you care about making a good first impression. Thousands of people are eliminated as job candidates every week merely because they were not dressed appropriately for the interview, but a business suit is always appropriate.



Dress for Success Checklist

- ✓ Quality suit – subtle colors
- ✓ Leather shoes
 - ✓ Break in for comfort
 - ✓ Polish
- ✓ Modest jewelry
- ✓ No added fragrance
- ✓ Only one tote/bag
 - ✓ Portfolio with notepad
 - ✓ Pen



Remove tacking from pleat in jacket and skirt back. Pockets also may be tacked.



Campus Professional Closet

Free professional clothing!

- [SGA Professional Clothing Closet](#)



You GOT THIS!

- You were INVITED for an interview!
 - Your application got their interest
- You are WORTHY to be in professional school!
 - You will work hard to achieve your dream
- Relax and ENJOY the interview!
 - Be yourself - see if you “fit” at the school and in the cohort
- It is OK to be nervous!
 - Because you CARE!
- You are PREPARED!



Resources for this Presentation

- The [UGA Career Center](#)
- “50 Common Medical School Interview Questions”
 - [The Princeton Review](#)
- “Medical School Applicant Interview Preparation Guide”
 - [AAMC](#)
- The Medical School Interview
 - Jeremiah Fleenor, MD, MBA
 - ISBN-10: 097795594X
- Virtual Dental School Interviews Do’s and Don’ts
 - [ADEA-AADSAS](#)
- The Core Competencies for Entering Medical Students
 - [AAMC](#)



Questions?

Pre-Professional Advising Office
Website: ppao.uga.edu

To make an appointment with Pre-Health Advisor, please visit our website.

