



**Pre-Health Advising**  
*Pre-Professional Advising Office*  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

# Pre-Health Interview Prep

**Lise Kalla**

Pre-Dental/Optometry Advisor | 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
- Preparedness
  - Review and practice
- Planning
  - Arrive early and calm

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



# 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

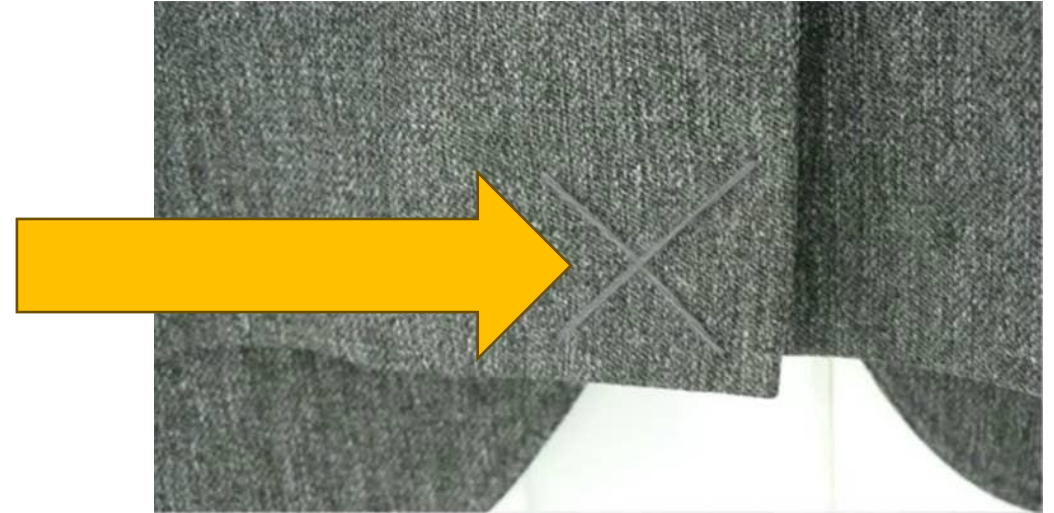


You only get one chance to make a good first impression with a potential employer. The clothes you wear are the first part of that first impression, so dress to impress. A business suit says you mean business, even though it may make you feel overdressed and uncomfortable. It shows that you care about 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.



# 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
  - An example of the characteristic in practice
  - 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)



# 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 in Advance

- Specific to their program
  - Not answered on their site
- Evaluate student support
- Follow up on topics addressed earlier
- Write questions on your notepad
  - OK to take notes





# Preparing for In-Person Interview

- Dress for success checklist (Slide 5)
- 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
- 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




# 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](#). If you would like a mock interview, you can register [here](#).

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





# 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](http://ppao.uga.edu)**

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

