



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

Pre-Health Interview Prep

Lise Kalla and Casey Ellis

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 problem 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
 - How you see this in the field

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.



- No firm right/wrong
to take a stance and
- Looking for your
say what you are
- Don't make assumptions
unknowns
- Use empathy – a
perspective of each
 - “I believe X, but
struggle this pe

-  UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Ethical Scenario Example

You are a student at a professional school. You see one of your fellow classmates taking medical equipment from the hospital stockroom. You ask them about it and they say that it's for more practice, and to not make a big deal out of it. What do you do?



Quick Discussion of Ethical Scenario

What would you do?

How does this position affect everyone in the scenario?

Visualize the scene:

Are you guys new to the program?

Is it technically allowed to take things? (i.e. - is this a breach of ethics?

could it cause a shortage?)

Would you give them a chance to turn themselves in?

How would it affect your standing in the program if you did not report it?

How would you approach the conversation?

Would your answer change if they were a year ahead of you?

Would the answer change if they were a close friend?



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

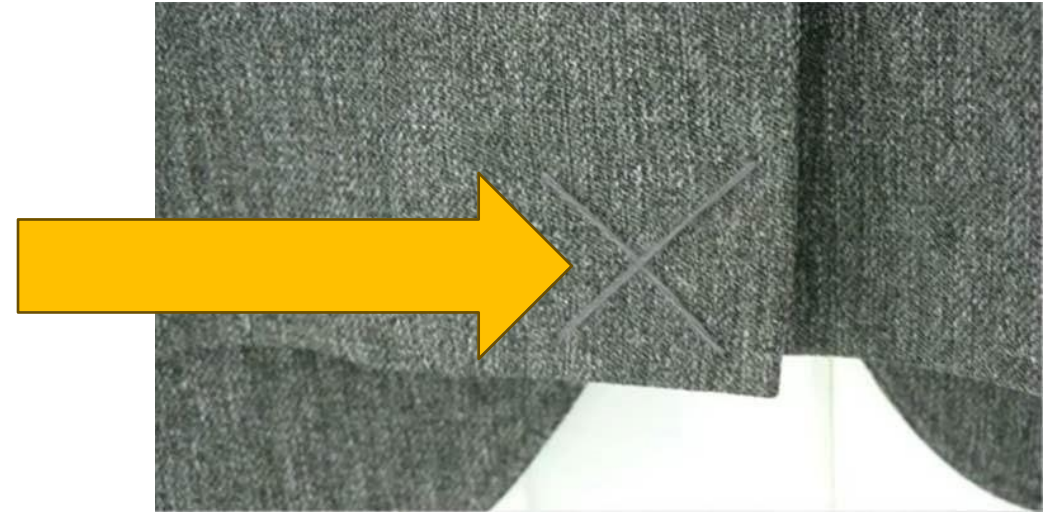
Clean, trimmed fingernails



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

Workshops & Orientations:

<https://ppao.uga.edu/resources/workshops/>

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

