

SAMPLE MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY MICHELIN[®] CAREER CENTER

From Columbia University:

- Describe your three favorite college classes.
- Why do you think we have reached the point where there are so many uninsured?
- What was the most important thing you did as an undergraduate?
- What other schools have you been interviewing at?
- What are your views on the fraternity system at your school?
- Why did you choose _____ for undergraduate study?
- What would you do if you did not go into medicine?
- Did you ever consider _____ as a career?
- Did anybody try to discourage you from medicine?
- Are you considering a medical or surgical route?
- Who is your favorite author?
- What makes you think that you can fit in at _____ school?

From Duke University:

- Who is the current president of your University?
- If you could do your undergrad over again, what would you change?
- Tell me about your family.
- What in your life has allowed you to become open-minded?
- If you could go to medical school and participate in a residency, but would never have the chance to treat patients afterwards, would you do it?

From Stanford University:

- If you had to interview a med student, what qualities would you look for in an applicant?
- Do you think you're a born leader?
- Explain this low grade on your transcript.

From Vanderbilt University:

- So do you see yourself doing research?
- Describe your research from high school.
- What would your friends say was your greatest weakness?
- Do you like the Practice Vision AMCAS question? How would you re-word it to make it more informative or more relevant?
- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- Discuss your volunteer work and how it relates to your decision to become a doctor.
- Important qualities in a physician are communication, leadership, civic responsibility, and competency. Explain what you have experienced that makes you think you possess these qualities.
- What do you do for fun?
- Why did you apply to so many medical schools? Which ones did you apply to?
- Do you think that humility is a good trait for doctors to acquire?
- How open-minded are you about living in _____.
- Tell me about some of the other schools you have interviews at and compare and contrast each school.

From Harvard University:

- What the hell are you doing here?
- Why does the moon appear bigger on the horizon?
- If you worked with another doctor who took frequent cigarette breaks, and it was obvious to the patients, how would you deal with it?
- Explain your research in simple terms.
- What do you want to talk about?

From MUSC:

- What did you think about social security and what are some alternatives to the current system. What do you do for fun?
- Outside of your clinical experience, what have you done to show your humanitarian effort?
- How would your relationship with your mother affect you during medical school?
- What goals have you had that you haven't accomplished?

- What activities do you wish you had time to do but do not? How do you prioritize all of the activities in your life?
- What major Social issues do you think you could address as a physician in your community (i.e. gun control, drugs, teen pregnancy)?
- Why medicine?
- Tell me about a time when you felt limited in your abilities.
- What would you like your gravestone to say about you after your life was over?
- Name three one word terms that sum you up.
- Why is it that some first year med students have strong reactions to the cadavers? (i.e. passing out, getting sick)
- Which of the great American authors have you read and which was your favorite?
- Who irritates you the most and why? How do you deal with that person?
- What are the ethical aspects of genetic research?
- Strengths/Weaknesses?
- Most/Least favorite class?
- What kind of characteristics do you possess would make you a good physician?
- Do you want to do research in the future? Why or why not?
- A friend who is a patient has cancer and has two weeks to live. Assume the role of the doctor and tell the patient.
- What do you personally bring to this school that other applicants could not? Tell me about something in your life that has hurt you and did you get revenge?
- Of the other service related professions, what makes you so set on medicine?
- What steps would you take if it was the night before a final and you found a copy of the exam that the professor had left in the copy room?
- If you have a patient that keeps coming back to you, but does not do what you prescribed...what do you do? How would you feel about it?
- If you had a patient that was positive for HIV would you tell his wife?
- What does it take to be a good physician? Why?
- What do I like to do? (Meaning the interviewer) Deduce characteristics about me (the interviewer) using the surroundings.
- Tell me about one problem you see in healthcare.
- How do you feel about treating Parkinson's disease with transplanted fetal tissue?

- What are you a slave to?
- Say you are the team doctor for the local high school team and it has a game, your young son has a soccer game, it's your 10th wedding anniversary, and you have to give an important presentation for a community group. Then the parents of a student on the high school team call and want you to meet them at the hospital, because their son is injured. These all happen at 7 o'clock. What do you do?
- What would you tell someone who asked you what was on a test you had already taken If you lied at this point, how would justify lying?
- What has been your greatest accomplishment?
- Most relevant clinical situation?
- Who is your role model?
- How are you going to prevent malpractice suits?
- Why did you choose your undergraduate institution?
- How will you deal with the stress of medical school?
- What would you do if asked to perform an abortion upon a patient that was too young?
- What would you do if you had a patient that kept returning to your office with the same complaints that you think you have properly diagnosed? What is your reasoning behind those actions?
- What, if anything, grosses you out about being a doctor?
- What would you do if you were not accepted to medical school?
- What do you think about legalizing pot?
- What is the difference between a doctor and physician?
- If chosen by the president of the United States to head a committee to "fix" the problems of today's youth (crime, drugs, pregnancy), what would you do?
- Do you have any problems with the ethics of sheep cloning and morning after pill?
- Express your views on the illicit drug crisis in our country.
- Tell me about where you think the future of medicine is going.
- What do you like to browse on the Internet?
- Explain how your background in _____ may be beneficial in the medical field.
- How do you feel about gun control?
- Do you agree with Dr. Kevorkian?
- What was the most difficult thing you have ever done?

- Tell me about your adolescence.

*These questions were compiled from www.interviewfeedback.com where candidates submitted actual questions that they had been asked during interviews at the respective schools.

Preparing for a Medical School Interview

Check out <http://www.interviewfeedback.com> for actual questions and advice from previous candidates. Search by specific Medical Schools.

Read information about the school and the medical program on the school's website or in brochures/flyers from the school.

Get a good night's sleep before the interview.

Do a mock interview.

Know yourself! Be able to answer questions such as "Why do you want to be a doctor?," "What are your strengths and weaknesses?," and "What are your goals?"