

INTERVIEWING FOR PRE-HEALTH SUCCESS



Emory University Career Center and PreHealth Mentoring Office

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

- Know yourself and your application
- Be prepared to talk about yourself and verbalize your strengths
- Practice talking about yourself in a mirror (to your roommates, etc.)
- Come in for a Mock Interview a week or more before the interview
- Let your professors know you are interviewing this year

PREPARE YOURSELF

- Watch the news and know current events (be prepared to talk a bit about politics)
- Know about current healthcare issues (attend workshops, information interviews, etc.)
- Talk with others about ethical situations
- Learn all you can about the school (internet, current students, school visits, etc.)
- Know where you are going that day (parking, traffic, etc.)
- Expect the unexpected and get PLENTY of sleep.

THE “BIG DAY”

- Recognize it's an all day endeavor
- Wake up early and eat breakfast
- Plan for weather – bring an umbrella!
- Plan to arrive 15 minutes early
- Remember that the interview starts before you meet with the interviewers (interact with other interviewees, students, staff, etc.)
- Remember to shake hands and make eye contact with everyone you meet
- Be yourself!
- Relax, relax, relax!

TYPICAL DAY OF INTERVIEW

- Normally, there will be 5 to 20 students a day
- Start with introduction, tour, financial aid meeting, lunch, then interview(s)
- May interview with alumni, faculty, staff, students, professionals who may/may not be on the admissions committee
- May have 1 or 2 30-60 minute interviews
- MMI interviews/Group Interviews/ One-on-one interviews

DIFFERENT STYLES

- Open: the interviewer has seen the file
- Semi-Open: has seen a portion (usually the personal statement)
- Closed: has never seen your file (expect lots of open-ended questions)
- Sometimes the interviewer acts as your advocate to the admissions committee
- Some interviews are structured (they must ask certain questions)

GROUP INTERVIEWS

- Multiple applicants with one or more interviewer
- All interviewers are trained to rate you on your interview
- How do you interact with people?
- Pay attention to how your counterparts answered
- Make appropriate eye contact

MMI INTERVIEW

- 6-10 timed stations with a scenario or task
- Ethical dilemmas, policy or social issues, interactions with an actor, essay writing, and teamwork (may have a “rest station”)
- Must be able to formulate logical, thorough responses, within a strict time frame
- Be familiar with bioethical issues and how to analyze various sides to the issue



MMI INTERVIEW

Sample MMI scenario:

There is an outbreak of an incredibly contagious life-threatening disease. The disease is spreading across the country at a rapid rate and the survival rate is less than 50%. You are a senior health care administrator, and when the vaccine is developed, you have priority to receive the drug. Do you take the vaccine yourself or give it to another person? Why or why not?

How would you respond to this scenario?

MMI INTERVIEW

Sample MMI Scenario:

The parking garage at your place of work has assigned parking spots. On leaving your spot, you are observed by the garage attendant as you back into a neighboring car, knocking out its left front headlight and denting the left front fender. The garage attendant gives you the name and office number of the owner of the neighboring car, telling you that she is calling ahead to the car owner, Tim. The garage attendant tells you that Tim is expecting your visit. Enter Tim's office. Tim will be played by an actor.

HOW TO ANSWER BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS

- Behavioral/Situational Questions, such as “Tell me about a time in your life. . . .”
- Be a STAR
 - Situation
 - Task
 - Action
 - Result
- Allows the school to see how you behave in real situations, not hypothetical

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

In Mock Interviews, most students struggle with:

- Tell me about yourself/ why you?
- Strengths/weakness
- Why do you want to be an (insert health professional) as opposed to another profession?
- How do you know you want to be a healthcare professional?
- How will you contribute to healthcare profession in the future?
- Ethical/controversial questions

INTERVIEW TIPS

- Prepare for small talk
- Watch your body posture—and hands
- Make appropriate eye contact
- Smile and use voice inflections
- Can interject appropriate humor—smile
- Don't drift off; Be proud of what you say
- Be nice to EVERYONE you encounter

MORE INTERVIEW TIPS

- Be informed on current events in healthcare
- Read your personal statement multiple times to prepare- this is the foundation of your interview
- Don't be afraid to be yourself or to say you don't know
- Realize that there may be a “stress” question
- You may want to write down 3 questions for the interviewer, so you don't forget

ATTIRE

Women

- Pants suit or skirt suit are both acceptable
- Can wear a collared shirt or a shell
- Check length of both (sit, bend, etc.)
- Make sure your shoes match your suit (and are comfy, but dressy!)
- Select neutral colors in dark shades
- Be mindful of perfume and accessories

Men

- Go for a classic suit-dark colors
- Can show a little individuality with necktie but don't go overboard
- Make sure your shoes match your suit
- Dark socks
- Be mindful of cologne and accessories
- Well groomed

WHAT ELSE TO BRING

- Copies of everything the you sent the school and general information about the program
- Money (bring enough cash for lunch)
- Dark portfolio (with notepad for questions you need answered)
- Turn the cell phone completely off or leave it locked in your trunk/hotel

AFTER “THE BIG DAY”

- Write a nice thank-you (to the interviewer and admissions) and remind them of something about your interview. *Make sure the schools accepts thank you notes. Some schools, like Emory SOM, prefer students don't send thank you notes.*
- Make notes, while your memory is fresh, on the school, interview, etc.
- Get ready for the next interview. Utilize Interview Stream for practice, and schedule a mock interview with an emeritus faculty through the PHMO if you haven't already done so.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Two options:

1. Use InterviewStream to practice common healthcare interview questions, watch your recorded interview for self-assessment, and receive feedback from PHMO staff.
2. Schedule an in-person mock interview with an emeritus faculty member.

See PHMO website for instructions on virtual and in-person mock interviews.

