Fifteen Common Interview Questions

These are 15 of the most commonly asked questions in interviews. This document provides information on what your answer should include, and/or how to find the information needed to answer the question.

1. **Why did you choose to become a doctor, dentist, optometrist…etc.?**
   a. Be able to say more than just, “I want to help people…”
   b. Be able to provide *specific* experiences and aspects of the profession that helped you make your decision.

2. **Why do you want to attend our school?**
   a. Look over the school’s website and get a feel for the mission of school.
      i. Are they research based or clinically based?
      ii. Talk to currently enrolled students if possible.
      iii. Provide specific examples of why you want to attend the school.

3. **How would you respond if you were placed in this ethically difficult situation? (The specific situation is provided)**
   a. Take a moment to collect your thoughts.
   b. Give a professional yet honest answer.

4. **What are your plans if you do not get accepted into medical, dental, optometry, etc. school this year?**
   a. Be honest about your plans.
   b. Tell them you are planning on reapplying and let them know what your alternate plans are. Ideally, your plans should include opportunities that will make your application stronger.
      i. Examples include: Master’s Degree, work, internship, etc.

5. **Tell me about your leadership experiences.**
   a. Provide specific examples of leadership positions.
      i. If they are church positions, explain them in a way that someone without an understanding of the church can understand
      ii. Organizations, student government, societies etc.
   b. Explain what you specifically did to improve the organization.

6. **Tell me more about your shadowing experiences.**
   a. Be specific in the doctors you shadowed and in the experiences you had. If you didn’t watch a major surgery, don’t tell them that you did.
   b. Explain aspects of the profession that you learned about.

7. **How do you feel about current issues facing our health profession (medical, dental…?)**
a. Read the newspaper, research online, watch the news, or ask a professional in your field about the current issues in your profession.
b. Try to form an intelligent opinion on the subject based on facts.

8. What did you learn about yourself during your internship/research experience?
a. Be specific about the things you learned. Provide concrete examples.

9. Why did you choose your major?
a. They want to know if you really are interested in the field of study you chose.
b. Did a teacher or class influence your decision?

10. How do you cope with stress?
a. They want to know that you can cope with stress in healthy ways.
b. It might be helpful to explain a situation where you handled a stressful situation successfully.

11. Tell us about a time when you overcame a major challenge in your life.
a. Explain the challenge efficiently and then talk about how it made you a stronger or better person.
b. What specifically did you learn from the experience?

12. Tell us about an experience when part of a group project at school or at work.
a. They want to know if you work effectively with other people. Do you value the opinions of others? Do you take ownership and responsibility for the work assigned to you?
b. Provide specific experiences that answer these types of questions.

13. Where do you see yourself in ten years?
a. Admission committees want to make sure you have a reasonable long-term plan.

14. Can you explain the events surrounding your low grade in this class?
a. This is a chance to talk about extenuating circumstances that prevented you from receiving the grade you wanted in a class or during a semester.
b. These include medical emergencies, death in the family, etc.

15. Do you have any questions for us?
a. Be prepared to ask the interviewer questions as well. Students that aren’t interested enough in a particular school to learn about it are unlikely to be admitted.