

## 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.