

THE TOP 5 THINGS TO DO DURING MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND PA SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

- 1. Be able to talk about your application clearly and in depth.** Medical school admissions committees often talk about how interviewees can't speak to many of the experiences listed on their applications. Be ready for questions about any part of your application, whether it was a volunteer experience, a research project, or a summer job. Here's the key – review your application forwards and backwards before your interview day, and make sure you can discuss each piece of your application in detail.
- 2. Practice with a mock interview.** A mock interview is a practice interview that feels like the real thing. You are given an interview time and date, you dress in interview-appropriate attire, and you sit down with 2-3 of your professors, counselors, or mentors. You are then asked questions as you would be asked in a real interview situation; it can be intense! This practice interview allows you to get the “first interview” jitters out of the way. You will receive feedback from your mock interviewers about your mannerisms, how you answered questions, and how you could improve your interviewing skills for the future.
- 3. Don't forget that the entire day is an interview!** When you are asked to interview at a professional health school, your interview begins the moment you step foot in the city where the school is located, and it ends the moment you leave. Keep in mind that anyone around you could be affiliated with the school. Throughout your interview day, everyone will be watching how you respond to both professional and social situations. Even the current students giving tours and eating lunch with you are able to provide feedback to the admissions committee. Don't spend time on your phone when you should be engaging with others. Watch what you do and say, because remember – they are watching too!
- 4. If you've been asked for an interview, admission to the school is yours to lose.** Many admissions counselors say that once you've been asked to interview at a professional health school, the school likes you and they want you to like them back! Prepare thoroughly for your interview and understand the school's mission, values and curriculum. Ask genuine questions, display that you're interested in their program, and show the best side of yourself.
- 5. Make sure to write thank you notes.** It's what your mother always says: don't forget to say thank you! Make sure to write thank you notes to each of the key people you came in contact with during your interview. Hand-written notes provide a special personal touch, but typed letters or emails also show that you've taken the time to show your appreciation. You never know – this may be the piece that puts you over the top in comparison with another applicant.

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