



CAREER SERVICES  
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY



# Medical School Interview Handbook

Sample questions from real medical school admissions interviews.

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## Collected Interview Questions

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Walking into an interview situation can be stressful, especially when your performance can determine whether you get into your #1 choice for medical school. You can't control what questions you will be asked, but you can prepare answers for the most common types of interview questions. If you got an invitation to interview for med school, the admissions panel already knows that you're smart – they are looking for indications that you have the character, compassion, and personality to make an excellent physician.

In this manual, we have compiled together reports from Cedarville students about the admissions interview process and questions from different medical schools across the country. The more informed you are about how different medical schools conduct their admissions interviews, the more confident you will be. Here is how you can prepare:

- ✓ Study the advice and interview questions in this manual.
- ✓ Think through the main “selling points” you want to communicate by the way you respond to questions.
- ✓ Prepare responses to as many types of questions as you can, especially the most common ones, and be ready to adapt your answers for any variations.
- ✓ Schedule a mock interview with Career Services to practice your answers and get out your nerves in a realistic interview setting.

### **Preparing for Your Medical School Interview**

1. Be enthusiastic about the school. Know why you want to go there and be able to provide 4 or 5 reasons when you're asked.
2. When asked why you applied, don't say that you applied because you thought you had a good chance of being accepted.
3. Always emphasize that you are seriously considering the program even if it isn't one of your top choices. If it isn't one of your top choices, don't say so.
4. Consider your responses to questions beforehand, but don't practice too much because you don't want to look like you've rehearsed too much.
5. Have questions to ask. Ask about unclear aspects of their curriculum, research opportunities, and so on, but your questions should show that you are familiar with the school.
6. Read the catalog beforehand and use it to create questions. Good questions demonstrate your enthusiasm and intelligence.
7. Bring up your strong points, but don't be overly self-confident. Try to strike a balance between self-confidence and humility.
8. Be prepared for an interviewer to bring up your weak points or ask you for your input on your weak points.
9. Listen carefully to the interviewer and often you will get clues or hints as to what they are interested in.
10. Understand that some interviewers may not have read your application or may not recall it. Be prepared to fill them in on your qualifications and experience.
11. It's ok not to know the answer to a question. Just say so.
12. If you did research, be prepared to talk about it. You should know the overall goal, methodology, what you found, and why it's important. Be able to discuss your part and contribution to the research.
13. Dress appropriately. Be neat and comfortable.
14. Try to relax and enjoy yourself.

### **Medical School Interview: What You'll Be Asked**

1. Why do you want to be a doctor?
2. What will you do if you aren't accepted to medical school?
3. What makes you special?
4. What are your 2 best points?
5. What are your 2 weakest points?
6. What do you think will be your greatest challenge in completing medical school or learning how to be a doctor?
7. In your view, what is the most pressing problem facing medicine today?

8. How will you pay for medical school?
9. If you could do anything different in your education, what would you do?
10. Where else are you applying?
11. Have you been accepted anywhere?
12. What is your first choice?
13. Tell me about yourself.
14. What do you do in your spare time?
15. How did you get here?
16. Why would you be a good doctor?
17. What are your strengths?
18. What do you feel are the most important qualities in being a good doctor?
19. What are your hobbies?
20. Are you a leader or a follower? Why?
21. What exposure have you had to the medical profession?

## Allied Health Interview Questions

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1. We've never heard of Cedarville University; all we know is that it is a small church-related school. Why, of all the schools in Ohio, did you decide to attend there?
2. What contribution do you think you can make it to the (PA, PT, OT) profession?
3. What skills do you have that will make you a good clinician? What weaknesses do you have?
4. Is there a particular patient population you'd most like to work with? Why this one?
5. What will you do next year if you are not admitted to a professional program for 2013-14?
6. Who have been your "role models"? How have they influenced you?
7. Relate or describe a situation you saw, or was part of in your clinical observation/patient contact experience that gave you assurance that health care was the profession you would like to be a part of?
8. Explain how you would handle the "difficult" or "noncompliant" patient. For example, the one who does not want to get up and do PT exercises a couple of days after hip replacement, because "it hurts"; or the patient won't take his/her BP medication regularly because they "don't feel bad".
9. Why have you selected this particular program as one to which you are applying?
10. Projections are gloomy for the future of Medicare; large amounts are spent on procedures and physical therapy for persons in their 70s and 80s. Some suggest that government supported therapies should have a "cut off" age of perhaps 70, since those folk are no longer working and don't "need" rehabilitative treatments. What is your position?
11. What sort of service activities have you been part of? What do you believe you gained from those experiences?
12. What has been your greatest disappointment thus far in life? How has (or did) it affect you?
13. Students like yourself have track records of "success" in academics, and generally in other areas as well; how do you deal with not doing so well at something? (or how do you think you would deal with failing an exam, or some similar shortcoming.)
14. What is your greatest achievement thus far in life? How has (or did) it affect you?
15. You've done your undergraduate work at a relatively small, conservative college, where there was little cultural or ethnic diversity. Tell us how you will function in an urban, inner-city environment, and deal with a very culturally diverse population?
16. Suppose you are a senior PT, PA, or OT student, serving as a team leader for a student-staffed out-patient clinic. One of the first year students reports for clinic with a scraggly goatee and several facial piercings. How would you react to his appearance? Would you say anything to him about it? Why, or why not?
17. What skills or strengths do you possess that will make you a good PT/PA/OT?
18. What are your weaknesses?
19. What leadership opportunities/roles have you had in college? What did you learn from those experiences?
20. Graduate study in the health fields is intense and there are stressful times. How do you handle stress?

21. There are many health care fields; what led you to choose this one (PT, PA, OT)?
22. Have you, or your family, had any personal experience with clinicians in the field you've chosen? Tell us about that experience.
23. What does "professionalism" mean to you? Is it different in any way for health care providers than for those in other kinds of work?
24. Suppose you perceive that a preceptor for one of your clinical rotations has given you a below-average evaluation because of your gender, appearance, ethnicity, or some similar reason. How would you deal with that?
25. How do you handle conflict or disagreement with a fellow student, teammate, colleague?
26. Suppose you know that one of your classmates cheated on an exam; what would you do?
27. I see you've been a college athlete; what did you learn or gain from the experience?
28. What do you anticipate will be the biggest challenge or "hurdle" you will need to overcome in your graduate program?
29. Suppose you are accepted to a program, and successfully complete it, passing Boards, etc. What would you most like to be doing ten years from now?
30. If you marry in the next few years, and have a family, how will you manage family and practice responsibilities?
31. For PA-bound students: You have an outstanding academic record; tell us why you want to be a PA rather than a physician?
32. For OT-bound students: Why have you chosen Occupational Therapy rather than Physical Therapy?
33. What changes do you believe should be made in America's health care system? Can we afford to provide health care for everyone? What suggestions would you make to a Senate committee if you had the opportunity?

## Baldwin Wallace

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### PA Program Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself and why you want to be a PA?
2. Tell me something interesting about yourself that I would not know from reading your application.
3. What qualities should a good PA have?
4. What qualities do you have that will help you be a good PA?
5. You are a PA in an ER. A man comes in complaining of chest pain. You think he needs to be admitted but after talking with your supervising MD, he does not think that the patient needs to be admitted. What do you do?
6. Describe a time when you had a challenging situation and how you handled it.
7. Describe a time when you disagreed with someone and how you handled it.

## Campbell University

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*PA program interview. Format: one thirty minute interview.*

1. Why do you want to be a PA and not a different medical profession?
2. Describe a situation where you disagreed with the person in authority over you, and how you handled it.
3. What is your shadowing experience?
4. How would you describe a PA's role, in relation to other medical roles?
5. Why did you decide to apply to Campbell?

1. How would you describe occupational therapy to someone who is not familiar with the field?

## The Commonwealth Medical College

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*The interview was very informal. The interview portion consisted of two 30 minute one-on-one interviews, one with a second year medical student and one with a PhD faculty member. It was very conversational yet they managed to ask several questions that I had prepared for.*

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Give me an example of a leadership position you've held.
3. Give an example of a time you worked with a team.
4. Give an example of a time you acted ethically.
5. What do you do for fun?
6. Why do you want to be a physician?
7. Why do you want to attend the Commonwealth Medical College?

## Duke University

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*PA program interview. Format: 2 15 minutes interviews and one 30 minute team processing exercise.*

1. If you had to explain a PA's role to your 8 year old nephew in 3 sentences or less, what would you say?
2. What does integrity mean to you?
3. What is your favorite trip you've ever taken and why?
4. If you could trade places with anyone for a week, who would you trade places with and why?
5. If you could be any superhero and have any superpower, which would you have?
6. Pick a patient care experience that shows where you handled an unpleasant situation well.
7. How do you handle failure?
8. What do you like to do in your free time?
9. If you couldn't be a PA, what would your plans be?

## East Carolina Medical School

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*At East Carolina, you have 2 blind interviews (the interviewers only have your name, major, and GPA) and 2 other people review your written application. These 4 people discuss and a decision is made. The interviews were very conversational and the interview ran very smoothly.*

### Interview 1

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. So you said you go to Cedarville University—where is that? How did you find that school?
3. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
4. Tell me about your shadowing experiences.
5. Out of these shadowing experiences, which was your least favorite and why?
6. Have you done research? Tell me about it—did you enjoy it?
7. Since I know nothing about your application, what else should I know?
8. What do you do outside of class, studying, volunteering, or any type of medical job?
9. Do you have any questions for me?

### Interview 2

1. Tell me about Cedarville.
2. Why the Brody School of Medicine?
3. Tell me when you knew you wanted to be a doctor.
4. Tell me about your shadowing experiences.
5. What are your weaknesses?
6. What should I know about you as an applicant?
7. Why would you think a medical school wouldn't accept you?
8. What would you do if you weren't accepted?
9. What do you do for fun?
10. Any questions for me?

## Hardin-Simmons University

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1. (They gave me a paper clip) In 30 seconds, name some things you could do with this paper clip.
2. Have you read anything for fun lately? What was it, and what was its main message?
3. Name an uncomfortable situation that you have previously found yourself in. How did you deal with that?
4. Many students who apply to PT school have never really failed in life. How do you deal with failure?
5. How do you learn? What setting do you learn best in?

## **Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis**

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1. How would you describe occupational therapy to someone who is not familiar with the field?
2. Describe a time in which you received help. Who helped you and how did you respond?

## Indiana University School of Medicine

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*I had one interview. It was between thirty and forty-five minutes long. The interviews are supposed to consist of one faculty member and one other person (faculty or student) both interviewing the candidate. However, only one faculty member was able to be present at my interview.*

### Interviewer Background:

M.D., went to medical school at IUSOM and “never left” for about 25 years. Works as an anesthesiologist. Conservative – papers on his door blasted Obama. He asked a lot of yes/no questions like “you did X, correct?” I thought this style of questioning required more proactive-ness on my part to make sure my best points were shown. I also felt that he questioned me about unimportant areas of my application (PCC, playing an instrument, how long my parents practiced).

1. Your parents are both doctors?
2. How long did they both practice? (probably asked this in light of his next question)
3. You were homeschooled?
4. What was your ACT/SAT scores? Do you remember how they broke down?
5. Do you play an instrument?
6. What do you do for fun, to de-stress?
7. You went to Pensacola Christian College?
8. Why did you transfer to Cedarville?
9. Tell me about this program in Cleveland (Chester Scholar Program)?
10. Why do you want to go into medicine?
11. Why IU?
12. Where else did you apply?
13. How will you choose where to go?
14. Ethical question – You see a student cheating on an exam. What would you do? (He added a few more parameters on the question to make it harder, but that was basically it. Other stock ethical questions I heard about include: ‘What would you do if a health care team member arrived at work with a small cross tattoo visible on her neck?’, ‘How would you respond if a surgeon/doctor arrived drunk?’, ‘What would you do if someone requested assisted suicide?’).
15. What is professionalism?
16. What do you think about this new health care bill?
17. Do you have any disciplinary actions taken against you by police or campus security? (He made the police distinction because he had my Cedarville demerits list in front of him. Indiana is one of the few schools that asked for a report from a student affairs dean. He said mainly what they’re looking for is alcohol-related infractions occurring between AMCAS submission and the secondary/interview.)

Another individual's experience:

*Interview started casually, but later questions felt more like an oral exam.*

1. Why did you choose IU?
2. Questions about my experiences listed on my application
3. Series of hypothetical clinical questions that were tricky, especially since I hadn't been trained to make those kinds of decisions. I tried to give an answer which explained that I would gather more information, refer patient to social worker or counselor, and let patient choose from several options. They may be targeting their 6 core competencies: medical knowledge, patient care, systems-based practice, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism)
  - a. A 23-year-old male with mental disabilities comes into the clinic with his aunt who is his caregiver. You discover his asthma is exacerbated by his aunt smoking around him. What do you do?
  - b. Parents of a 6-year-old male tell you that their son insists that "I'm a girl," and only plays with dolls and pink things. What do you do?
  - c. An uninsured homeless man with diabetes and hypertension comes to the clinic. He has no money for prescription medications. What do you do?

## Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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1. Why did you choose Cedarville?
2. Why did you apply to LUCOM?
3. If you could go anywhere in the world and do any kind of medical service for 7 days (including travel), what would you do and why?
4. How did you handle the stress of the difficult situations of youth in the juvenile detention center?
5. What do your parents do?
6. Did you like or dislike going to college where you dad was a professor?
7. What did you do when shadowing Dr. \_\_\_\_\_?
8. What would you do if you do not get accepted to any medical school?
9. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about yourself?
10. Could I pray with you?

**DCOM PA Program Questions:**

1. Describe a time when you had a disagreement with someone.
2. What interactions have you had with other PAs?
3. What qualities do good PAs have?
4. If you could call your family and tell them that during the interview you were really glad you were able to say \_\_\_\_\_, what would you tell them?
5. What life experiences have you had that have contributed to you wanting to become a PA?
6. What is the most recent non-academic book you have read?
7. What is something interesting about yourself?

## Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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*This interview was different than other interviews because MUCOM uses a Mixed-Mini Interview (MMI) format. I believe there were 7 “stations” (one was a “rest” station and one included a 20 minute “standard” interview). Each interviewee started at a different station. On the door to each room/station there was a prompt with a question or a description or a situation. These are designed to make you have to think through multiple sides of the problem and consider different possibilities. [The following examples] are simplified, but get at what the questions asked. I know that they have since changed the questions, but this gives a general idea of what it was like.*

1. Should the government do more to help fight AIDS in Africa?
2. Your employee is habitually late and is causing problems in the workplace. How do you handle confronting the employee?
3. What do you do when a teenager wants a medical treatment that the parents will not consent to?

## Marshall University School of Medicine

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*I came to the student center and met the assistant dean who acted as the mediator before and between the interviews. I went through two interviews, one with a faculty member, and one with a graduate. The interviewers are different most of the time, but similar questions seem to be asked each time. A tour of the facilities is optional by request, and everyone was very helpful. The interview is very relaxed and As. Dean Warren is great at helping you relax. The school has a family like atmosphere, with a rural and international focus. The facilities are almost all brand new, the graduates have 100% residency acceptance, most to their top choices. It seemed like a great small school where you could get a quality education, your pick of residency, and yet still not get lost in the crowd.*

### First Interview

1. Tell me about CU-WHERE.
2. What classes are you taking now?
3. What has been your least favorite class and why?
4. Tell me about your experiences in South America.
5. What are your weaknesses?
6. What are your goals? How do you feel about the situation of rural medicine?
7. What kind of research are you participating in?
  - a. Follow up questions
8. What sports are you doing right now?
9. What kind of leadership are you involved in at school?

### Second Interview

1. What are your goals?
2. I see you like outdoor stuff, what else do you like to do?
3. What's the last book you read and why did you like it?
4. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
5. What have been your best experiences?
6. What was your lowest moment?
7. How are sports going; which ones are you involved with?
8. What is not in your application that you want me to know about?
9. I see you did choir. Tell me about that experience.
10. You seem to care a lot about people and devote a lot of time to it. Why?
11. What will be your biggest difficulty with medical school?

## Medical University of South Carolina

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*All day interview including information sessions, tour and meals. I had three interviews with teachers and current researchers; some other interviewees met with an alum or current student.*

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What research have you been involved in?
3. Why MUSC?
4. Tell me about a time you were rejected. How did you deal with it?
5. If you don't get it, what's your backup plan?
6. What do your parents do?
7. With your strong research background, why are you not getting a Ph.D.?

*Three 45-minute questions with faculty or staff. All three interviews were very laid-back and conversational.*

### 1st Interview

1. Why did you switch from business to pre-medicine?
2. Tell me about your experience in the Dominican Republic.
3. The rest of the time we talked about the benefits of socialism in healthcare.

### 2nd Interview

1. Tell me about Cedarville.
2. What is your greatest strength?
3. What was a time when you were rejected and how did you react?
4. Why MUSC?
5. What kind of medicine do you want to practice?

### 3rd Interview

1. Tell me about what you did as a camp counselor.
2. Tell me about Cedarville.
3. What is your favorite book, movie comedy, and movie drama? Why?
4. Tell me about the research paper you published.
5. What are some of your extra-curricular interests?

## Michigan State College of Human Medicine Interview

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*The day consisted of two 30 minute interviews, a faculty and a student. MSU interviews always ask the same 6 questions, with perhaps a few extra thrown in at discretion. The questions can be mixed up in order and by who asks them, but everyone gets the same 6 questions. Partial-open book. Our interviewers only see our essays and our activity list.*

First Interviewer (First or Second year student)

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Describe an ethical issue to me.
3. What if a patient wanted to do something you disagreed with (assuming it was legal and safe)?
4. What is the most difficult question you think you will face as a physician?
5. Any questions?

Second Interviewer (A faculty (not MD) really good interviewer. The interview started question-based – like MSU wants it – but ended more conversational).

1. How would (or how did) you deal with a difficult patient/situation?
2. Who are your role models?
3. What makes you unique to MSU?
4. Where do you see yourself in 15 years?
5. Describe an unethical situation you have been or witnessed and how you dealt with it (may have been a Northwestern-Feinberg question from faculty)
6. Any questions?

## Northeastern Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)

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*The interview went really well. I had two interviews with two different clinical faculty members. The first was great and very conversational.*

1. What are your strengths?
2. What are your weaknesses?
3. When have you overcome adversity?
4. What was your greatest achievement?
5. What were your hardest classes and how did you do in them?
6. How will your Bible minor affect your medical practice?
7. What are you afraid of seeing in medicine?
8. What is something that you are excited to learn about in medical school?

*The second interview was a little more serious. The second interviewer grilled me on the institutional action.*

1. Tell me about yourself?
2. Why should NEOMED pick you?
3. Will you stay in this area after you finish medical school?
4. What is something that you are afraid of in medical school?
5. Give me an example of a weakness.
6. Have you every cheated before?
7. What if you are in medical and one of your good friends obtains a past exam and wants to use it to study? If he refuses to get rid of the exam what will you do?
8. If one of your future team members says something prejudiced, what will you do?

## Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

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*Feinberg interviews were very unique from my other interviews. There were two separate interviews. The first (for me) was a panel interview where three interviewers (a faculty, a physician, and a student) question three interviewees. This interview lasted 1 hour and 15 minutes. The second was a faculty interview that lasted 20-30 minutes.*

First Interview (A PhD in Immunology who also helped design the medical school curriculum, a pathologist, and a fourth-year med student. This was closed book – they only knew our names and our schools. Each of us was asked a unique question – I’ll list some of mine. But we may or may not (usually not) get the same questions as the interviewees in our panel. The interview went in segments. Since Feinberg’s curriculum is built around small groups, this interview is geared to see how I work in a group).

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Segment: Questions, about 30 minutes
  - a. Tell me about yourself briefly.
  - b. What do you do in my spare time?
  - c. If I (the interviewer) went to your house, what would you serve me?
  - d. 50 years from now, robots are in control and doctors are no longer needed. What would you do instead?
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Segment: Problem, about 15-20 minutes
  - a. Obama has given you three 1.3 billion dollars as part of the stimulus package that he wants you to spend on good works within 2 years. How would you spend it? On what and how would you go about it?
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Segment: More Questions
  - a. Can’t remember these.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Segment: Open Floor for questions to the Interviewers

Second Interview (One-on-one. A physician, in part, with an MD, MPH, and JD).

1. Why medicine?
2. What is your strongest point?
3. What is one of your weak points?
4. Tell me about a memorable patient?
5. Tell me about your research.
6. Describe an unethical situation you have witnessed and how you dealt with it (may have been MSU question from faculty).
7. Any questions for me?

## Ohio State Optometry School

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*Overall, this interview was very laid back and conversational. I felt prepared for all the questions they asked, and I had questions for them at the end. The whole interview lasted about 30 minutes.*

1. Why Optometry?
2. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
3. What is a mistake you have made and how did you deal with the consequences?
4. What is your goal in pursuing Optometry?

## Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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*Here are some of the questions I got asked. There were 3 separate 30 min. interviews with faculty (one was a D.O., and 2 were Ph.Ds.). They had looked over my application and asked me some questions from that (except my first interviewer didn't show up that day, so there was a back-up interviewer who conducted that interview – he didn't get a chance to look over my application at all because it was last minute...I actually lost 15 min. of interview time because of that). They were all very nice and it was a really relaxed atmosphere.*

### Interview 1

1. Tell me everything about yourself (back-up interviewer).
2. What sets you apart from other students?
3. What experience have you had interacting with people?
4. If there were 100 students in your medical school class, where do you think you would rank? Why?
5. Would you say you are smart?
6. Do you work better alone or in groups?
7. Any questions for me?

### Interview 2

1. Tell me why you're interested in medicine.
2. Why osteopathic medicine?
3. Is OU-COM one of your top choices?
4. Where do you see yourself after you graduate?
5. Any questions for me?

### Interview 3

1. What's CU like?
2. Tell me about your family.
3. What's been your favorite class so far? (She stressed that it definitely did not have to be a science class...)
4. What is one principle that you learned in a non-science class that rocked your world?
5. How do you relax after a stressful day? (I answered running...) Besides running?
6. What are your hobbies?
7. What would be the most hurtful thing someone could ever say to you?
8. Do you have supportive people you can turn to?
9. What are your current science classes? Have you taken histology?

10. Involved in any research/senior project?
11. What cultural things did you learn in Africa?
12. What was your job in the clinics in Africa and Peru?
13. If you couldn't be a doctor, what would you be instead?
14. What would your closest friends say is your worst trait?
15. You like reading? What books are you reading right now?
16. What would be your biggest challenge in medical school?

**A second individual's experience:**

*3 interviews with faculty or staff for 20 minutes each. Very conversational and based off experiences described in application.*

- Tell me about yourself.
- Tell me about your work experiences.
- Why do you want to be a DO? Attend OU? Attend OU Dublin?
- What do your parents do?
- (I had mentioned my sister). How would your sister describe you in 3 words?
- If you didn't end up in primary care, what specialty would you pursue?
- Having grown up in rural Ohio, how did you gain a passion to serve Latinos?

## Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

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*I had two 30-minute interviews, one with the Director of Admissions and the other with a physician faculty member.*

*Admissions Direction: open file, very conversational. Most of the questions were inquiring about my application, including personal statement and activities.*

*Physician Faculty Member: closed file, only had access to my secondary application with essays. She asked me not to divulge GPA/MCAT.*

*SIU is a very mission-focused medical school. Their mission statement is specifically to “serve the people of central and southern Illinois.” I would highly recommend that you emphasize your desire to fulfill that mission, especially if you are from a rural area or central/southern Illinois originally.*

1. What got you interested in medicine?
2. What do you believe are the three most important qualities of a successful doctor?
3. How do you exemplify each of these qualities?
4. Tell me about your experience with/at\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What has been the most challenging part of your time at Cedarville?
6. What interests you most about SIU over any other medical school?
7. How did you first hear about SIU?
8. Which activity on your experience list did you least enjoy and why?
9. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
10. What do you like to do for fun?
11. In what ways will you be able to contribute to the mission of SIU?
12. Tell me about a time that you showed leadership.
13. Tell me about an ethical dilemma you have had to face.
14. How did you study for the new MCAT, and were you pleased with your score?
15. What interests do you have outside of medicine?
16. Why should we choose you over the thousands of applicants we get each year?
17. What do you think is the biggest struggle currently facing medicine?
18. How will you manage your time during medical school?

## The Ohio State University College of Medicine Interview

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*OSUCOM interview includes two segments, one with a faculty and one with a student. The faculty interview is geared to make sure you're the same person you put on paper and see whether you are really fit for medicine. The student interview is geared to find out if you will "fit" in with the OSU class.*

First Interviewer (A physician from the pediatric hospital. This was open-file; she had seen my essays and my grades. The interview was pretty conversational).

1. Both of your parents are doctors. No surprise you're going into medicine. (This was sort of a lead on for me to expound on my parents being physicians).
2. What motivated you to go into healthcare?
3. Tell me about some of your research.
4. What about this bad grade in X class? What happened here?
5. I'm not sure of everything she asked since I talked quite a bit and the questions followed from my statements rather than prewritten questions. However I felt as though the interviewer's mission was to probe out my honesty (compared with my application), and whether I had the integrity, compassion, and commitment to become a physician.

Second Interviewer (First or second year student. This was closed file. He only knew my name and my school. His job was just to see if my personality would be a fit at OSU – which prizes down-to-earth kind of people).

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Why Cedarville?
3. Who has impacted you the most?
4. Unfortunately, you died. What would be your epitaph?
5. Any questions for me?

### Optometry Interview

*It was very laid back and one of the interviewer's daughters plays volleyball, so talking about that really put me at ease. The style was more conversational than having rapid-fire questions, but here are the basics:*

1. So, tell me about Cedarville.
2. How is school going for you?
3. What are you doing with your free time now?
4. I know you are aware of some of the pros of optometry, what are some of the cons that you foresee?

5. You've told us in your application about a difficult decision you made, now tell me about a decision that you regret making and how you dealt with the consequences.
6. Strengths/weaknesses
7. Any questions you have about the school or that you would like to ask us?

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

1. What is the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)?  
*In the MMI, applicants rotate through a series of timed mini-interviews, or “stations” in which they will meet individual with an interviewer. While this is a new interview format in the United States, it has been used successfully for the better part of a decade in medical schools throughout Canada and Australia.*
2. How long does each station last?  
*Applicants will interact with the interviewers for seven minutes. They will be informed when time is up and they need to move on to the next station. There will be a two minute break between stations.*
3. How long does the entire MMI process last?  
*The MMI itself, including all the mini-interview stations, lasts approximately 90 minutes. However, all applicants invited to interview should expect to spend the better part of the day on our campus as part of the official UA College of Medicine Applicant Visit Day.*
4. Where do the mini-interviews take place?  
*Each station takes place in a small room or quiet area.*
5. What will I be asked?  
*Before each station, you will receive a “prompt” of the question, scenario or task to address and will have two minutes to gather your thoughts before you enter the room. Some will be traditional interview questions (i.e., why do you want to become a physician?) And others will ask for your viewpoint on a hypothetical situation. Typical questions or scenarios might focus on one or more of the following:*
  - Critical thinking skills*
  - Communication skills*
  - Ethical decision making*

The following is an example of a question that measures critical thinking skills:

*Universities are commonly faced with the complicated task of balancing the educational needs of their students and the cost required to provide learning resources to a large number of individuals. As a result of this tension, there has been much debate regarding the optimal size of classes. One side argues that smaller classes provide a more educationally effective setting for students, while others argue that it makes no difference, so larger classes should be used to minimize the number of instructors required. Discuss your opinion on this issue with the interviewer.*

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## University of Cincinnati

*MMI Format: 8 stations, 6 minutes each. Everything was very straight-forward and objective.*

Prompts (from what I remember):

1. What was a time when you had a plan for how to do something (non-academic), but had to go a different route because of majority rule, a dissenting supervisor, etc.? How did you react?
2. A student is choosing between University A and B. A variety of information is given and you have to say where the student should go and why.
3. Acting Scenario: A fellow student has been missing class recently, and you just find out that her mom was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. You have to talk to her and "explore her feelings."
4. Pick 3 adjectives from a list that describe you and say why. One must be negative.
5. I do not remember the prompt, but I believe that it had something to do with leadership and decision making.
6. Rest station.
7. Acting Scenario: You are told that you are asking a first year medical student for tips on interviewing for medical school. However, when you walk in, the student asks you, "Why do you want to be a doctor?" He then tells you how terrible medical school is and you must defend your decision.
8. Talk about holistic healthcare.

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### University of the Cumberland

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1. What makes you different from every other applicant?
2. What is the weakest part of your applications?
3. What are your personal weaknesses?

4. What was the hardest class you have taken?
5. What upper-level biology courses have you taken?
6. To you (make it personal/from the heart), what is a PA?
7. Why did you choose this school?
8. Why would you make a good fit for the program? What would you bring to the table?
9. Are you a leader or a follower?
10. What positions of leadership have you been in?
11. What situation have you gone above and beyond the call of duty?
12. When was a time that you had to make a judgment call?
13. Has there been a time when you wanted to break a rule (in the workplace)?
14. When was a time that you faced adversity?
15. Describe a complex project you were a part of. What was your role?
16. What is your greatest disappointment, and what have you learned from it?
17. Why do you think that you are qualified for grad school?
18. Do you think you are able to handle the jump from undergrad to graduate studies?

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## University of Delaware

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*The interview was individual, about twenty minutes long, and very low key. The professor actually told me as soon as I sat down that he was trying to sell me the school as much as I was trying to impress them.*

Specific questions asked:

1. What made you choose to study Physical Therapy?
2. Can you tell me about a leadership role you have had where you have had to be an advocate for someone, even if you did not get along with them? (The idea being a clinician needs to be able to advocate for all of their patients)
3. If there was one thing you would like us to know about you beyond your application, what would it be?

*Other than that we talked about the interviewer's research, as well as any questions I had about the program.*

## University of Illinois College of Medicine

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*Three 30-minute interviews one-on-one interviews, one with a physician faculty member, one with a staff member, and one with a second year medical student.*

*Physician faculty member – very laid back and conversational, open file, most of the questions stemmed from my extracurricular activities.*

*Staff member – closed file, very friendly, only had access to my essays from the secondary application.*

*MS-2 – basic information only (name/year/major)*

1. Tell me what got you interested in the medical field.
2. Are any of your family members healthcare professionals?
3. Where do you get your news from?
4. What other schools have you applied to, and tell me what would be your top choice?
5. Tell me something medically-related that has been in the news recently.
6. I see you were very involved in music at Cedarville (I'm a member of a vocal music group, play piano, etc.), how do you think you'll be able to utilize your musical talent in your future medical practice?
7. What interests you about University of Illinois?
8. How did you hear about the medical school?
9. How will you add diversity to the class at U of I?
10. What achievement are you most proud of from your time at Cedarville?
11. In what ways have you been able to mentor or influence your peers or underclassmen while at Cedarville?
12. If you could change one thing about your application, what would it be?
13. We are very committed to preparing doctors who have a heart for underserved communities. What experience have you had working in underserved communities or populations?
14. What is your greatest strength?
15. What is your greatest weakness?
16. Tell me about a time you went "above and beyond" for a patient.
17. What is the greatest struggle facing modern medicine?
18. Discuss a time that you had to overcome an obstacle and what you learned from the experience.
19. What are some important characteristics of a doctor, and how do you exemplify those characteristics? Give examples.
20. What makes you unique?
21. What leadership experience do you have, and how will it help you in medicine?
22. Ethical Scenario: You are a primary care physician working out of a rural clinic. A family comes to you with their 8-year-old son, who has an obvious clubbed foot. The parents are of a devout religious tribal background, and are refusing treatment for their son because they view the

clubbed foot as a blessing from the tribal gods. How would you handle this situation as the young boy's medical provider?

## University of Iowa School of Medicine

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*This interview was from the Physical Therapy Department. I was interviewed by two faculty members. They also asked me a very specific question about something someone said in their recommendation letter. One prof wrote that I had showed research at a conference and I was surprised at how detailed the questions were regarding my project. They asked exactly what the research project was and how many participants I had in each experimental group and how many students in my control group...detailed! I probably could have just thrown random numbers out, but I think they wanted to confirm that I indeed, did show my research paper. They asked about pretty much everything on my resume/application. So, if you go to Iowa, you better know what you wrote when you applied 3-4 months earlier!*

### Interview #1

1. How equipped are you as a leader and how have you utilized and developed your leadership skills?
2. Ethical Question: If you were in charge of a PT program and a PTA (physical therapy assistant) entered the program but still used the old methods as he had been doing for years, what would you do?
3. What do you look for when you are choosing a PT program?
4. What attracts you to Iowa?
5. What were some of the most important characteristics in the people you interned for? What made them a good (or bad) physical therapist?
6. If you get into Iowa, how do you want to change and grow other than gaining the scientific knowledge and skills?

### Interview #2

*St. Ambrose DPT Department. Again, I was interviewed by two faculty members.*

1. Ethical Question: Say you needed treatment and you received treatment X. You go through school and you learn that treatment X isn't the best treatment anymore. Now you are a doctor and a patient comes in and insists that they receive treatment X. What will you do?
2. Why do you want to be a therapist?
3. If you got a D on your first Anatomy test, what would you do? Take us through step by step how you would handle that.
4. If you had planned out your studying and a professor gave you a five page paper due in two days at the last minute, what would you do?

Another response:

*My interview was on a Friday. The whole day was from 8:30 to about 2 in the afternoon. There were 17 of us interviewing this particular day. The day started out in a conference room with an overview of what the day would look like. Next a lady came in and talked about the curriculum at the Iowa [Carver College of Medicine]. After her, another lady came in and discussed financial aid and paying for medical school. By now it was about 10 in the morning. Eight of us left the conference room and went to our interviews, while the other eight stayed and worked on a case based learning example. I was one of the eight so I went out into the hallway to wait. The first round of interviews for my group was at 10 and the second round was at 10:30. I waited until 10:30 for my interview. The interview was 25 minutes long with two faculty members. I was interviewed by a clinical assistant professor with his doctorate in radiation oncology and a clinical assistant professor with her doctorate of allopathic medicine in internal medicine. The interview is set up kind of funny. First it is a closed file interview. They knew nothing of my primary application, secondary application, GPA, MCAT, ect. They only knew my name and my undergraduate school. It started with them telling me a bit about themselves and then they asked me to tell them a bit about myself (so I guess this really was my first question). Then they described what the interview would look like. They have three structured questions to start. They asked me a question, listen while I responded, and were not allowed to respond or say anything besides reading the question word for word. After these three questions, they could ask any follow up questions that they wanted to and interact as they saw fit.*

*The Three Structured Questions:*

1. Why do you want to become a doctor
2. (Ethical Scenario) Would you give a lifesaving blood transfusion to a Jehovah's Witness who is refusing one?
3. What qualities does a good doctor possess?

*In past interviews I have also heard of these questions being asked in the structured part:*

1. What do you think is the greatest contributor to the rising cost of medical education?
2. (Ethical Scenario) You arrive in the ER to start your shift as a resident and your attending smells like alcohol, what do you do?

*By the time I was done with the structured part, I only had about ten minutes left. They asked me...*

1. What had playing on a team taught you?
2. How and Why have you made time to travel so much?
3. What have you learned from your time abroad?
4. Do you have any questions for us?

## University of Louisville Medical School

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### Interview #1

1. Tell me about Cedarville.
  - a. We don't know anything about it and we had to "Google" it to make sure it was a real school.
2. Since your school has a religious affiliation, tell me what you think about the Rick Patino situation.
3. What do you think about Michael Vick and Brett Farve and their current state of being?
4. What other schools have you applied to?
5. Where would you like to end up living?
6. Why did you choose U of L to apply to?

### Interview #2

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Tell me about your shadowing experience.
3. Where do you see yourself 20 years from now?
4. What do you think is the biggest problem in the healthcare system today?
5. Tell me about one specific turning point in your life that made you want to pursue medicine.
6. Tell me about one specific turning point in your life that made you not want to pursue medicine at all.
7. What do you do for fun?
8. What profession will you consider doing if you aren't accepted to medical school?
9. What do you foresee as the biggest challenge you will face when you are in medical school?
10. Is there anything outside of your application or what we've talked about today that you would like me to specifically bring before the admissions committee?
11. If you have thirty seconds to tell the admissions committee why they should accept you as a medical student, what would you say to them?

## University of Michigan Medical School Interview

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*I had three half-hour interviews. They tried to give you an interview with a student, a faculty member, and an alumni, but sometimes are unable because of scheduling. They were one on one and open-source, meaning the interviewers had access to my AMCAS application and secondary. Almost every question came from my AMCAS. Michigan usually sets up their interviews to be a faculty member, a med student and a “question mark” (usually a med student or alumni). The latter two interviews tended to be more conversational, so I’ve taken some liberties in recording the questions more traditionally.*

First Interviewer (4<sup>th</sup> year medical student who was earning an MD/MCRiT [Multidisciplinary Clinical Researchers in Training], he had completed three years of medical school and was now on his year of research training. He had applied for the job of interviewer. Usually UofM likes to have a representative from a student group. This interviewer was the Policy Chair of the united Asian American Medical Student Association – I had to find this out; he didn’t tell me.)

1. You’ve done quite a bit and had an exposure to different areas of medicine. In your experience did you learn anything about disparities in medicine?
2. Do you plan to address these disparities were you to become a doctor?
3. If you’re accepted, you’ll be out of school for a semester. What will you do during that time?
4. I see you went to Kenya. Tell me about that experience.
5. You said you even stuck with a needle! Tell me about that experience.
6. I have a friend that went to Guatemala during undergrad and had even more patient contact than you seem to have had. In fact, he told me that at one point he had primary responsibility for ten patients. Do you think its right for a relatively untrained undergraduate providing medical care for these people who have nowhere else to go? (He hedged the question a bit more, but this is basically it)
7. Tell me about one of your research experiences.
8. I didn’t really understand your involvement in the “Ministry Council”. Tell me more about that.
9. What is the Luke Commission? Tell me about your involvement.
10. You wrote in your essay that doctors tend to become mechanistic. How would you avoid that as a physician?
11. Do you have any questions for me?

Second Interviewer (Alumni who is now practicing in the area of ophthalmology I believe)

1. Tell me about CU.
2. How do you think you’ll transition from a small school like CU to a big school like UofM?
3. You mentioned in your secondary your involvement as a personal care provider. I didn’t see that on your AMCAS application. Why is there a difference?
4. Tell me about your involvement as a personal care provider.
5. Has that experience given you a new perspective on medicine or life in general?

6. Tell me about your biochemical research.
7. Tell me about your electrophysiological research.
8. Considering your first school, you seem to have some changes in your plans for the future since then. Tell me about the evolution that brought you to pursue medicine.
9. Any questions for me?

Third Interviewer (Faculty member, head of the Family Medicine department, over 30 years in medicine. Surprisingly, we (he did much of the talking) just chatted for about 25% of the interviewing time.

1. You said both of your parents are doctors? What kind of doctors? Where do they practice?
2. Tell me about CU. I'm pretty sure we've never had a student from there.
3. How do you think you'll transition from a small school to a large school like UofM?
4. You've had some international experience I see. Tell me about that.
5. Do you think you'd want to work internationally? If so, how so?
6. Why that particular interest if you worked internationally?
7. I enjoyed your essay. Tell me about X feature of your essay.
8. Any questions for me?
9. Tell me about your biggest disappointment and how did you deal with it?
10. Why do you want to be a doctor?
11. Tell me about yourself?
12. What do you do for fun?

## University of North Carolina Medical School

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*There were 2 interviews for 45 – 1 hour. They both had my application in front of them. Extremely relaxed – talked to one interview for about 15 minutes about the TV show – the Good Wife.*

Interview 1—Chairman—been working at UNC for over 30 years

1. Tell me your “life story.”
2. Tell me about Cedarville.
3. Tell me your favorite and least favorite class and why.
4. I am going to give you three scenarios and tell me what you would do. You got accepted to all the medical schools you applied to—how do you choose? You get in to a med school but not your top two choices—what do you do? You don’t get into med school—what do you do?
5. If you could describe yourself in 3 distinct words, what would they be?
6. Why UNC?
7. Any questions for me?

Interview 2—She reviewed app and had specific questions

1. Tell me about Cedarville.
2. Describe EMT, personal care provider, Wright State Cadaver lab, etc.
3. Why UNC?
4. Why should we choose you?
5. Any questions for me?

## University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

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*Two 30-45 minute interviews for the day, one faculty, one student. Both interviews are equally weighted, which is unique. Though the student interview is pretty low-key, I was warned not to take it less seriously!*

First Interviewer (First year student – seemed a little nervous. This was closed book. All he knew was my name and my school).

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What do you do outside of school?
3. Why go into medicine?
4. What else have you done outside of school?
5. Why Pittsburgh?
6. Where to you see yourself in 10 years?
7. What are two words that define you?
8. How are you creative?
9. Any questions for me?

Second Interviewer (Faculty (a PhD) at one of the UPitt's hospitals. Very good interviewer; really delved into what made me want to go into medicine. Very conversational style of questioning, where one question leads to another. This was open book, or partially open. He had definitely read my essays and seen my activity list. I'm not sure if he knew my grades).

1. Both of your parents are doctors?
2. Explain X of your essay.
3. Did you know right then (referring to my essay) in your first year of college that medicine was for you, or did that decision solidify over time?
4. What makes Pittsburgh special?
5. Explain your doubt with the current practice of psychology.
6. Tell me about your research.
7. Where else did you apply/interview? (While walking back to the admissions office – so maybe not technically part of the interview)

## University of South Carolina SOM (Columbia)

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Format: Two thirty-minute interviews with either staff, faculty, or students.

### Interview Questions

#### 1st Interview (one-on-one, 30 minutes)

1. Tell me about your last name. (He said he knew someone with my last name a long time ago.)
2. What happened at Cedarville in 2012 with the leadership change?
3. Why do you want to be a doctor?
4. Do you have enough experience to say for sure that you want to be a doctor?
5. What did you do in the Dominican? What was your experience like?
6. Tell me about the essay you published.

#### 2nd Interview (one-on-one, 30 minutes)

1. Tell me about Cedarville.
2. Why did you choose Cedarville?
3. What are the academic standards like?
4. Hypothetically, where are you ranked amongst your pre-medicine class?
5. What is the worst thing you have ever done?
6. Tell me some tough situations you have had to handle as an RA.
7. What would you do if you were asked to compromise on your faith in order to complete training at medical school?

Interview Questions

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Why are you interested in our school?
3. What are you involved in (in medical field and in school)?
4. What do you do for fun?
5. What does “professionalism” mean to you?
6. Tell me everything you know about a system of the body.
7. What are your strengths/weaknesses?
8. What would you change about the current healthcare system?
9. Tell me about your experience in research?
10. Ethical Questions:
  - a. You are on your way to the airport with your family for a two week vacation. This is the only time in two years you have been able to fit a vacation in to your busy schedule as a third-year med student. You witness a multi-vehicle accident with obvious injuries. What do you do?
  - b. You are an attending at a teaching hospital and are in charge of several interns. One of your interns shows up in jeans, several facial piercings, and completely covered in tattoos. Do you say anything about his appearance? What do you say?
  - c. One of your patients asks you for a prescription for antibiotics even though she isn't sick. She says they are for her brother who is sick and doesn't have insurance. How do you handle the situation?
11. Case studies
12. Questions about the school?

## Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

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*These weren't all the questions from this interview, only the generic ones. The others were focused directly on things that came from my essays. (For instance, the first guy asked me about why I chose to describe myself as innovative and reread me the last paragraph of my personal statement).*

1. What is something that people you don't get along with would say about you? (The interviewer pointed out at the beginning that he just saw this question on an IT departments example interview questions list—he said he liked it more than the typical question that asks what your friends would say about you).
2. What is a book you've read recently that you would recommend?
3. Tell me about your role on a team.
4. Tell me about your clinical experience in the ER. How has that shaped you?
5. Tell me about a time you felt defeated or like you failed. How did you overcome that and what did you learn from it?
6. Give me one strength and one weakness.

## University of Wisconsin

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School of Medicine and Public Health

Format: 2 interviews, thirty minutes each

First interview with an anesthesiologist who worked at the hospital connected with the university. He asked the following questions from a long list he had:

1. Tell me about Cedarville. Why did you want to go there?
2. Tell me about a time you failed. What did you do, and what did you learn from it?
3. List the traits that you think a good doctor should have.
4. Some of those traits could pertain to a nurse, PA, or a physical therapist. Why do you specifically want to be a doctor?
5. How do you handle stress?
6. What are three characteristics of a mature person?
7. What is your greatest fear about medical school?
8. What kind of support system will you have here at UW during medical school?
9. I see you are interested in global health care. So do you plan to practice in WI at all or to work somewhere else?
10. What specifically are you interested in going into?

The next interview was with two medical students. There were three people being interviewed together.

1. Tell us about yourself: name, where you are from, and where you did your undergraduate studies.
2. Why do you want to go to UW?
3. Why do you want to be a doctor?
4. What would you say is your greatest weakness?
5. What do you do in your free time?

## Virginia Commonwealth University

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1. How was your trip out here?
2. Tell me about an obstacle you have had to overcome. How did you respond to it? How did you learn from it?
3. Were you pushed into going into medicine or was it your choice?
4. Do you have second thoughts about going into medicine?
5. Describe a situation where you were part of a team and someone was not pulling their weight. How did you respond?
6. Talk about your other missions experiences.
7. Describe a situation where a professor did not teach effectively. How did you respond? What came out of this?
8. Describe a situation where you had an incorrect view/stereotype of someone. How did you come to see them differently? What did you learn from this experience?
9. Describe a situation where you have had to help someone through a difficult time.
10. Describe a situation where someone (professor, peer, boss) criticized you. How did you respond? What came out of this?
11. Describe a situation in which you failed. What did you learn and how did it help you in the future?
12. What do you like about VCU?
13. Any questions for us?

## Washington University in St. Louis

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*At each station, the interviewee is given around two minutes to read and consider a prompt. Two minutes is more than enough time, trust me. The student is then asked (over an intercom) to step inside the room and address the prompt.*

*Advice to students: A lot of the MMI interview style questions do not have a right or wrong answer. Do not try to memorize all the answers to possible questions or others like them. I would recommend considering the nature of example questions and some strategies of how to approach similar ones. It is important to empathize with one or two sides of a conflict/problem. I made an effort to show I could consider both sides of a debate, even if I told the interviewer that I agreed with one side over the other. Be prepared to back up what you say. Communication, rather than success, was key in the teamwork stations (although they often went hand in hand). Be ready to think on your feet. Personally, I found MMI interviews to be more “fun” than traditional ones, so don’t stress too much. At least in these interviews you won’t be asked to talk about yourself (which can sometimes be a little uncomfortable).*

*Example question: A child rapist has recently been released from jail after serving his punishment. What rights should be granted to this man? In what ways, if any, should he be restricted?*

## West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

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*Four prospective students had their interview in the morning, five had theirs in the afternoon (I was the first afternoon interview). I arrived at 10:15, we filled out a couple forms, they showed us a short clip about the school, and then we went on a tour of the campus. The tour lasted about one hour. After the tour, we had lunch with 3 second-year medical students and were encouraged to ask them questions. Lunch lasted about one hour. We then returned to the Admissions Center and those who interviewed in the morning were free to leave.*

*The interview was with three interviewers—one from the admissions staff, their curriculum coordinator (Ph.D.), and a representative of the clinical staff (Ph.D.). The interview lasted about 30 minutes—2/3 of the time they asked me questions, and the last 1/3 I was able to ask them questions.*

*Everyone at the school was very friendly and kind, reminded me of Cedarville somewhat. They really tried to sell this attribute of the school. Overall the day was very pleasant and relatively stress-free.*

The interview questions:

1. How was your trip here?
2. Why do you want to be an Osteopathic physician?
3. What characteristics do you think make a good doctor?
4. Besides golf, what do you like to do?
5. Tell me more about this experience (referring to a missions trip I mentioned in my application).
6. How will that job (from my application) help you in the future?
7. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
8. What will be your biggest challenge when starting medical school?
9. Have you witnessed Osteopathic Manipulative Therapy (OMT)?
10. What was your hardest class in undergrad?

*\* Asked a few other questions that stemmed from my answers to their questions.*

## Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM)

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*Just a side note in case people are wondering, this is a separate application process than the regular M.D. program at the University of Wisconsin, and it has a different interview process. The regular M.D. interviewers only have the applicant's personal statement and possibly their list of activities. For WARM, I was interviewed by the Director of the program (seems to be the norm) and he had all of my application materials (primary and secondary) as well as my test scores, etc. He had read through everything and taken notes on sentences I wrote throughout the essays.*

*He started off by telling me about himself, then told me that the interview would be less formal questions and more conversational. Lasted about 30-45 minutes.*

1. Tell me about your journey to medicine, rural medicine specifically.
2. So obviously you chose Cedarville because you knew you'd be able to play some hoops there, but where else were you looking, and why did you eventually decide to attend Cedarville?
3. He asked me two specific, pretty personal questions about my application—he picked it apart a bit.
4. Tell me what you know about the WARM program. What do you think it is? (I believe he asked this just so he could follow up with explaining exactly what the program would look like. It was less about my knowledge and more about selling the program to me).
5. Do you have any questions for me?

*Next was a small group discussion involving two current medical students, myself, and two other interviewees. Every question the students asked they also answered after the interviewees did. It was very informal and relaxed, but the students did have a say in our eventual acceptance. Lasted about 45 minutes to an hour.*

1. If you could be a part of any reality TV show, what would it be?
2. What is your favorite ice cream and why?
3. Why did you choose to apply to the University of Wisconsin?
4. If something happened where the world didn't need medicine anymore, what would you do? Psychology, research, and other health professions are off limits.
5. What are you most excited for and most nervous about for Medical School?
6. What was your favorite class outside of your major and why?
7. Do you have any questions for us?

*Overall, the whole day was very relaxed; it was a great interview experience and actually kind of fun! They were very welcoming and made all of us feel like we belonged there.*

## Wright State University Boonshoft SOM

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*I was fortunate to be able to receive some very positive and insightful feedback from both interviewers, as to the ways I thought through and answered the questions, and also about mistakes many other applicants make. A good piece of advice they mentioned was, "Don't TRY to be an attractive candidate, just BE one."*

1. Tell me about yourself, - give me the history of the life and times of Sam, and maybe focus on the specific bits that highlight your journey towards medicine
2. Why do you think cultural diversity is important? What experiences in your life have demonstrated that this is something that you value?
3. What is your favorite class you've taken at Cedarville? – Why? Tell me about it. *(I asked kindly, "does it have to be a science course?" And the interviewer replied, "Please no! So many applicants come in here telling me biochemistry or organic because they think that's what we want to hear, and unless they explain in very good detail and emotion why it actually is their favorite area of study, I know they're full of crap and their interview suffers for it. So please, by all means be honest." So I talked enthusiastically about Humanities, music philosophy, etc. And this went over very well with her.)*
4. If you were an animal, which would you be, and why? *(While questions like this may be anticipated, I did not have a pre-thought out answer for this...Rather than immediately starting answering and stammering through a half-baked answer, I kindly asked the interviewer, "May I please give this some thought for a minute?" She replied, "Absolutely, and give me a deep answer." So I replied, well I know the perfect creature. It would be a hybrid cat-otter, and I explained that I could be creative, energetic and light-hearted (otter) and also wise and shrewd, with confident self-identity and instinctual problem-solving (cat). As cats hate water, but otters are at home in the water, I could function as an excellent doctor on both the sea, and the land...We had some good laughs, and she replied, "That's the best answer I've had to that question yet. It seems a number of people tend to respond 'dogs, because they're cute. Or eagles because they're rare.' When we ask these questions we like to see some deep thought behind the 'why'..."*
5. If you could have dinner with three important people, alive or dead, who would you choose and tell me why.
6. Let's talk about your colorful experiences: Cars, Music, and Painting – how have these bettered your life? Do you see yourself using them to benefit others, maybe patients? If so, how?
7. What directions of medicine are you thinking? Why those specialties?
8. Explain why our medical program in particular is a good fit for you. *(Hint: know the strengths and emphases of the med school!)*
9. Where do you see yourself in the next five, ten, or fifteen years? What are some goals and directions you intend to pursue?
10. Is medicine a science? Or is it an art? *(Think outside the box. I said "yes", and explained specific instances where it was each)*

11. Give me an example of a time when you felt “culturally competent”.
12. Will moving from home affect your support group?
13. Are you a servant?
14. *(For those of you whose parent(s) happen to be physicians also), Lay out for me how this journey into medicine is of your own accord, not just because it’s familiar to you; show me the intentional choices in your life that demonstrate this.*
15. Where do you draw the line between your personal ethics and your professional care? And, give me a clear example of how you might face this as a doctor.
16. Tell me a little about yourself
17. Tell me what research you have done
18. Why do you want to come to VCOM?
19. Have you had to deal with people unlike you?
20. Have you had to face some type of ethical decision?
21. What do you believe you possess that would make you a good fit for VCOM?
22. Have you had to work in a team atmosphere before and how did you handle it?
23. *And here are a couple good questions I thought of, as they told me, impressed both interviewers:*
  - a. In your experience of this medical program, what has been something that you really take pride in? Not the list of strengths or selling points of the school, but what’s something that you enroll your heart in with excitement?
  - b. Dr. [Interviewer], describe for me a distinctive experience in which you can point to and say, ‘Wow!’ That wouldn’t have happened anywhere else but at [their medical school].

*Overall, this interview was incredibly personal. They were more interested in getting to know the interviewee than grilling them to the point of embarrassment. My suggestion: just relax, be yourself, be ready to sell your strong points, smile, and enjoy the opportunity. They worked hard to make me feel comfortable, and there was a conversational feel to the interview.*

Another individual’s interview experience:

*Here are some of the questions I was asked at my interview with Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine*

1. Tell me about yourself
2. What was a challenging experience that you had to overcome?
3. I noticed you volunteered at Greene Memorial Hospital and at Dayton Children’s. Tell me about those experiences.
4. Tell me about a leadership role you have had.
5. If I were to tell the committee why you should be admitted to our school, what should I say?
6. A lot of questions were directly related to my application (I see you did this/were involved in...Can you tell me more about that? Or some question relating to something in my application.)

Another interview response:

*I am writing to list any interview questions which I faced that I did not see on the Question Index pdf. They are as follows.*

Most were very AMCCAS application specific (ie: they asked questions about my activities list)  
Unique questions were:

1. List one strength which you think you could use to benefit the school and student body.
2. How did you like growing up in a rural area (I'm from rural Kentucky).
3. What do you think about the recent healthcare reforms.

As a general feel it was a fairly conversation[al], relaxed interview. It was very much focused on getting to know me as an individual.

Another individual's response:

1. Tell me about yourself
2. What was a challenging experience that you had to overcome?
3. I noticed you volunteered at Greene Memorial Hospital and at Dayton Children's. Tell me about those experiences.
4. Tell me about a leadership role you had
5. If I were to tell the admissions committee why you should be admitted to our school, what should I say?

Another individual's experience:

*1 interview with current student, 1 with faculty, 30 minutes each. Friendly, but some awkward questions.*

- What's the value of cultural diversity and understanding?
- What is a specific thing you have learned about Latinos' view of healthcare?
- You talked about working as a team in healthcare, so if you were the head attending physician on a med surg floor, who would you want on your team doing rounds?
- In your work as an EMT, have you taken an interest in emergency medicine?
- Suppose an uninsured, undocumented Hispanic man comes into the ER with a serious illness or injury that could be best treated if admitted to the hospital. However, if you admit him to the hospital, there's a high likelihood that he would be deported. Do you discharge or admit him?
- *The faculty member asked me about my 3D mentorship group, which I explained was connected with my church. I shared that the group talks about peer and family relationships and character.*

# Multiple Mini Interview Format

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## Introduction

The multiple mini interview (MMI) format is a new screening method that many postgraduate dentistry and medical programs have implemented into their admissions process. The philosophy of MMI's is that they provide a more accurate prediction of a candidate's future success because they provide a tool to measure not just candidates' grades and test scores, but other qualities that allow them to become excellent physicians.

## Typical Format

- Six to ten interview "stations" with candidates rotating between each one
- A prompt at each station
- Two minutes (approx.) for candidates to read the prompt and formulate an answer
- Eight minutes (approx.) for candidates to enter the station and interact with an interviewer
- A time at the end of each interview where the interviewer will evaluate the candidate's performance
- MMI's typically take about two hours for candidates to go through every station
- Possible scenarios will measure:
  - Ethical decision-making
  - Critical thinking skills
  - Communication abilities
  - Knowledge of current health care issues
- Possible stations could include:
  - Ethical dilemmas or questions about social issues
  - Interactions with an actor where the candidate may need to deliver bad news, confront them about a problem, or gather information from them
  - Standard interview questions
  - Teamwork exercise involving two or more applicants working together to complete a task
  - Short essays responding to a prompt

## Preparation

- Prepare answers to standard interview questions, but remember that the format of MMI's measures the ability to think logically and well under pressure
- Consider what qualities make an excellent physician and how you can implement these into your performance at each station
- Familiarize yourself with bioethical issues
- Research current events in healthcare and social policy

- **Practice time management** – one of the most difficult components is how to pace yourself to answer questions effectively within the allotted time. Wear a watch during your interviews to keep track of your time.
- Be confident – research MMI’s and look up videos and sample questions to familiarize yourself as much as possible with the format. While you have no way to know the exact situations you’ll encounter at each station, you can calm your nerves by taking to prepare yourself for what to expect.

## Practice MMI Questions

### 1. Placebo (Ethical Decision Making)

*Dr. Smith recommends homeopathic medicines to his patients. There is no scientific evidence or widely accepted theory to suggest that homeopathic medicines to work, and Dr. Smith doesn’t believe them to. He recommends homeopathic medicine to people with mild and non-specific symptoms such as fatigue, headaches and muscle aches, because he believes that it will do no harm, but will give them reassurance.*

*Consider the ethical problems the Dr. Smith’s behavior might pose. Discuss these issues with the interviewer.*

### 2. Aspartame (Critical Thinking)

*A message that recently appeared on the Web warned readers of the dangers of aspartame (artificial sweetener – NutraSweet, Equal) as cause of an epidemic of multiple sclerosis (a progressive chronic disease of the nervous system) and systemic lupus (a multisystem autoimmune disease). The biological explanation provided was that, at body temperature, aspartame releases wood alcohol (methanol), which turns into formic acid, which is in the same class of drugs as cyanide and arsenic. Formic acid, they argued, causes metabolic acidosis. Clinically, aspartame poisoning was argued to be a cause of joint pain, numbness, cramps, vertigo, headaches, depression, anxiety, slurred speech and blurred vision. The authors claimed that aspartame remains on the market because the food and drug industries have powerful lobbies in Congress. They quoted Dr. Rhonda Blaylock, who said, ‘The ingredients stimulate the neurons of the brain to death, causing brain damage of varying degrees.’*

*Critique this message, in terms of the strength of the arguments presented and their logical consistency. Your critique might include an indication of the issues that you would like to delve into further before assessing the validity of these claims.*

### 3. Air Travel (Communication Skills)

*Your company needs both you and a co-worker (Sara, a colleague from another branch of the company) to attend a critical business meeting in San Diego. You have just arrived to drive Sara to the airport.*

*Sara (played by an actor) is in the room.*

### 4. Deterrent Fees (Societal Health Issues in Canada)

*Recently, the Prime Minister of Canada raised the issue of deterrent fees (a small charge, say \$10, which everyone who initiates a visit to a health professional would have to pay at the*

- first contact) as a way to control health care costs. The assumption is that this will deter people from visiting their doctor for unnecessary reasons.*
- Consider the broad implications of this policy for health and health care costs. For example, do you think the approach will save health care costs? At what expense? Discuss this issue with the interviewer.*
5. Standard Interview 1  
*Why do you want to be a physical therapist? Discuss this question with the interviewer.*
  6. Class Size (Critical Thinking)  
*Universities are commonly faced with the complicated task of balancing the educational needs of their students and the cost required to provide learning resources to a large number of individuals. As a result of this tension, there has been much debate regarding the optimal size of classes. One side argues that smaller classes provide a more educationally effective setting for students, while others argue that it makes no difference, so larger classes should be used to minimize the number of instructors required.*  
*Discuss your opinion on this issue with the examiner.*
  7. Parking Garage (Communication Skills)  
*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.*
  8. Preferential Admission (Societal Health Issues in Canada)  
*Due to the shortage of physical therapists in rural communities, it has been suggested that physical therapy programs preferentially admit students who are willing to commit to a 2 or 3 year tenure in an under-serviced area upon graduation.*  
*Consider the broad implications of this policy for health and health care costs. For example, do you think the approach will be effective? At what expense? Discuss this issue with the interviewer.*

### Sample MMI Questions

*Please Note: these questions were designed by the Astroff Consultants Inc. and the use of the material below for income-generating purposes is strictly prohibited. Thank you.*

#### Instructions:

1. Take two minutes to read and consider the prompt
2. Take eight minutes to answer the prompt (or other exact length of time that you will be given for each MMI station by your institution. Length varies by each university/organization conducting the MMI).

1. Station #1  
*A close friend in your 1<sup>st</sup>-year medical school class tells you that his mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. He feels overwhelmed by his studies and is considering dropping out of medical school to spend more time with his mother. How do you counsel your friend?*
2. Station #2  
*Joe is a pizza delivery worker. The pizza shop he works for has a thirty minutes or less delivery guarantee or else the customer does not have to pay. On Joe's most recent delivery, he spots a woman bleeding on the street. There is no one else around and the woman seems to be unable to move by herself. However, Joe knows that if he returns empty handed again, he will be fired from this job he most desperately needs. What do you think Joe should do? Justify your solution in terms of practicality and ethical considerations.*
3. Station #3  
*"Liberation Therapy" (LT), a vascular operation developed to potentially cure multiple sclerosis (MS) in certain patients, has recently come under very serious criticism – delaying its widespread use. Among other experimental flaws, critics cite a small sample size in the original evidence used to support LT. As a healthcare policy maker, your job is to weigh the pros and cons in approving novel drugs and therapies. Please discuss the issues you would consider during an approval process for LT.*
4. Station #4  
*Because of federal and provincial subsidy policies and return-of-service agreements, international medical graduates (IMGs) now make up an increasingly large proportion of rural doctors. As a consequence, the shortage of doctors in rural areas has prompted many family medicine residencies to increase their quotas for IMGs in their programs. Effectively, this development is leading to a relative reduction in spots available for Canadian medical graduates. Please discuss the pros and cons of such a development.*
5. Station #5  
*Discuss one of your pastimes outside of school and how the skills you acquired from this activity will help you in your career.*
6. Station #6  
*You are a family physician seeing Jane, a 67 year old woman with a recent history of multiple fragility fractures. You diagnose her with osteoporosis and prescribe some bisphosphonate drugs and other pharmacological treatments. Jane tells you that she has heard some good things over the internet about alternative medicine treatments such as Chinese medicine, and she is adamant on trying these as well. You are concerned about the use of these alternative medicine treatments and the possible negative effects they could have on Jane's health. How would you handle the situation and what would you recommend Jane to do? Discuss any ethical considerations that are present.*
7. Station #7  
*You are on the committee for selecting a new Dean of Science. What characteristics and/or qualities would you look for when selecting an effective dean?*

8. Station #8

*In June 2011, the infamous Vancouver riots took place after their hockey team lost in the Stanley Cup Finals. Stores were ransacked and cars were burned. Hundreds of people were injured and sent to overcrowded hospitals. As the police chief in Vancouver, what measures or policies would you put in place to make sure this does not happen again?*

9. Station #9

*Clostridium Difficile (C. difficile) is a type of bacteria that increases its activity with most antibiotic use, and is therefore very difficult to treat. Research shows that the most effective way to prevent the spread of infection is frequent hand washing. However, many people have flat-out refused to wash their hands in hospitals. The government is contemplating passing a policy to make it mandatory for people entering hospitals to wash their hands or else risk not being seen by doctors and being escorted out of the building against their will. Do you think the government should go ahead with this plan? Consider and discuss the legal, ethical or practical problems that exist for each action option and conclude with a persuasive argument supporting your decision.*

10. Station #10

*Discuss an experience that allowed you to learn something important about yourself. How will this lesson help you succeed in your career?*

A good interviewee would:

- Have a sense of establishing the facts to ensure fairness
- Demonstrate an awareness of the situation from a range of perspectives
- Be able to justify how he or she would balance conflicting interests
- Appreciate the need for students to consider the consequences of personal behaviors
- Be able to draw lessons from the experiences to inform future learning

## Allied Health/PA Interview Questions

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### Example Interview Questions:

- We have never heard of Cedarville University; All we know is that it is a small church-related school. Why, of all the schools of Ohio, did you decide to attend there?
- What contribution do you think you can make to the (PA, PT, OT) profession?
- What skills do you have that will make you a good clinician? What weaknesses do you have?
- Is there a particular patient population you'd most like to work with? Why this one?
- What will you do next year if you are not admitted to a professional program for this year?
- Who have been your "Role models", and how have they influenced you?
- Relate or describe a situation you saw, or was part of in your clinical observation/patient contract experience that gave you assurance that health care was the profession you would like to be a part of.
- Explain how you would handle the "difficult" or "noncompliant" patient. For example, the one who does not want to get up and do PT exercises a couple of days after hip replacement, because "it hurts"; or the patient who won't take his/her BP medication regularly because they don't "feel that bad."
- Why have you selected this particular program as one to which you are applying?
- Projections are gloomy for the future of Medicare; large amounts are spend on procedures and physical therapy for persons in their 70's and 80's. Some suggest that government supported therapies should have a "cut off" age of perhaps 80, since those folk are no longer working and don't "need" rehabilitative treatments. What is your position?
- What sorts of service activities have you been part of? What do you believe you have gained from those experiences?
- What has been your greatest disappointment thus far in life? How has (or did) it affect you? How have you coped with it?
- Students like yourself have track records of "success" in academics, and generally in other areas as well; how do you deal with not doing so well at something? (Or how do you think you would deal with failing an exam, or some similar shortcoming?)
- What is your greatest achievement thus far in life? How has (or did) it affect you?
- You've done your undergraduate work at a relatively small, conservative college, where there was little cultural or ethnic diversity. Tell us how you will function in an urban, inner-city environment, and deal with a very culturally diverse population?
- Suppose you are a senior PT, PA, or OT student, serving as a team leader for a student-staffed out-patient clinic. One of the first year students reports for clinic with a scraggly goatee, and several facial piercings. How would you react to his appearance? Would you say anything to him about it? Why or why not?
- What skills or strengths do you possess that will make you a good PT/PA/OT?

- What are your weaknesses?
- What leadership opportunities/roles have you had in college? What did you learn from these?
- Graduate study in the health fields is intense, and there are stressful times. How do you handle stress?
- There are many health care fields; what led you to choose this one? (PT, PA, OT)
- Have you, or your family had any personal experience with clinicians in the field you've chosen? Tell us about that experience.
- What does "professionalism" mean to you? Is it different in any way for health care providers than for those in other kinds of work?
- Suppose that you perceive that a preceptor for one of your clinical rotations has given you a below-average evaluation because of your gender, appearance, ethnicity, or some similar reason. How would you deal with that?
- How do you handle conflict or disagreement with a fellow student, teammate, or colleague?
- Suppose you know that one of your classmates cheated on an exam; what would you do?
- I see you've been a college athlete; what did you learn or gain through that?
- What do you anticipate will be the biggest challenge or hurdle you will need to overcome in your graduate program.
- Suppose you are accepted to a program, and successfully complete it, passing boards, ect. What would you most like to be doing ten years from now?
- If you marry in the next few years, and have a family, how will you manage family and practice responsibilities?
- For PA-bound students: You have an outstanding academic record; Tell us why you want to be a PA rather than a physician?
- For OT-bound students: Why have you chosen Occupational Therapy rather than Physical Therapy
- What changes do you believe should be made in America's health care system? Can we afford to provide health care for everyone? What suggestions would you make to a Senate committee if you had the opportunity?
- How do you think that healthcare reform (Affordable Care Act) will affect the (PA, OT, PT) profession?
- What are your views regarding euthanasia? Medically assisted suicide? Are you comfortable with DRN orders?
- You are at your assigned clinical rotation (PT or OT Clinic, medical office). When your preceptor comes in, his/her behaviors, speech, and/or appearance suggest that he or she is impaired at that time. What would you do?
- Think of a time when you may have had a difference of opinion, or "conflict" with someone in authority. It may have been an employer, professor, coach, ect. How did you handle that situation? Were you satisfied with how you dealt with that situation? Is there anything you wish you had done differently? If so, what is that?

## Specific Location Interviews

### Duke University:

*Format: Two 15-minute interviews and one 30-minute team processing exercise*

1. If you had to explain a PA's role to your 8 year old nephew in 3 sentences or less, what would you say?
2. What does your integrity mean to you?
3. What is your favorite trip you've ever taken and why?
4. If you could trade places with somebody for a week, who would you trade places with and why?
5. If you could be any superhero and have any superpower, which one would you have?
6. Pick a patient care experience that shows where you handled an unpleasant situation well.
7. How do you handle failure?
8. What do you like to do in your free time?
9. If you couldn't be a PA, what would your plans be?

### Campbell University

*One 30-minute interview*

1. Why do you want to be a PA, and not a different medical profession?
2. Describe a situation where you disagreed with the person in authority over you, and how you handled it.
3. What is your shadowing experience?
4. How would you describe a PA's role in relation to other medical roles?
5. Why did you decide to apply at Campbell?



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