



Medical School Interview Handbook

Sample questions from real medical school admissions interviews.

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Collected Interview Questions

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?
22. If something happened where the world didn't need medicine anymore, what would you do? (Psychology research or any other health profession is off limit)
23. What are you most excited for and most nervous about for Medical School?
24. Why did you choose Cedarville University?
25. What are you afraid of seeing in medicine?
26. What is something that you are excited about learning in Medical School?

Allied Health Interview Questions

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, and 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?

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.

PA Program. 2 20-minute interviews.

The first was with the program director in a group of three applicants. He let us go around and ask questions about the program and life in Cleveland. It felt like he was selling the program and we were not being evaluated. I would suggest applicants be familiar with the program and have questions ready.

The second was with a faculty member:

1. Is respect earned?
2. Why be a PA?
3. What role does a PA play in the healthcare system?
4. What unique value is found in that role?
5. Why were you drawn to medicine?
6. Questions specific to my application and my background

MPhil in Clinical Sciences (Rare Diseases) Interview. Described as “no longer than 15 minutes...an informal discussion regarding your background and experience, and a chance for you to ask any questions.” I was told I would interview with the directors, which I correctly surmised was Dr. Menna Clatworthy and Dr. Mark Tosher. I had seen Dr. Clatworthy lecture on YouTube and thus expected her accent, but I didn’t think to find a video of Dr. Toshner. He spoke with a type of Scottish accent. It would be beneficial to future interviewers to familiarize themselves with various British accents to ensure that they can understand their interviewers.

1. Tell me about your research experience. They asked a few questions along the way, one of which was about why one project I was working on was clinically important. My team will be looking at a drug-herb interaction and Dr. Toshner wanted to know if the herb was commonly used.
2. They asked why I wanted to study their MPhil specifically.
3. They asked what type of research I would want to do at Cambridge and followed up by checking what I knew about what research Cambridge was currently doing. It helped that I had looked up a potential supervisor who had previously supervised students for this MPhil and they mentioned that it would be possible to work with her.
4. They asked about my future plans. I talked about my desire to earn an MD/PhD and possibly do the PhD at Cambridge. Dr. Clatworthy directs the NIH Oxcam program, which is what I’d do, and said that it was useful to spend a year there before starting a PhD due to the challenge of having two PIs in two countries.
5. They made sure I knew how expensive tuition would be.
6. They asked what questions I had for them.
7. At the end, they said they had everything they needed from their perspective and said that they just needed to go through the administrative details to accept me. They closed by saying, “We hope to see you this autumn!”

Campbell University

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?

School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM) interview. The interview day included presentations on financial aid and CUSOM as a school. My interview group was large so when we received the presentation another group of students went to do the interviews. There were three back-to-back interviews in total and each with a different person [staff, faculty, and "wild card" (anyone affiliated with the school and for me it was another faculty member)]. Prior to my interview day I did two mock interviews and also looked up potential interview questions using the Student Doctor Network. This is a great site to look up interview questions for any medical school.

Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself (look at interviewer body language)
2. Why DO (Osteopathic medicine vs allopathic (MD))?
3. Why Campbell?
4. How did you hear about Campbell?
5. Being your major has included many difficult courses. What courses did feel like you didn't do well in and what challenge did you learn from that?
6. What has been your favorite course and what have you learned from it?
7. Take me through how you studied for the MCAT. How do you think you did?
8. Where do you see yourself in 7 years specifically, what specialty and what location? X3-asked in all my interviews.
9. In your opinion how would college courses compare to medical school?
10. What do you think would be the most challenging aspect about studying in medical school?
11. They say medical school is like drinking from a water hose, do you feel prepared to take on that challenge? How will you be studying? How has undergrad helped you study for graduate school?
12. Tell me about your progression in your passion for medicine?
13. Give me words that describe a leader especially in an inter-disciplinary setting.
14. Tell me a time when taking on leadership has worked out well.
15. Tell me a time when you had to step up as a leader and didn't turn out well.

16. So you went to Paraguay (missions trip through Global Outreach), give me examples of how your experience in Paraguay will help you in medical school.
17. Let's say you and another student are accepted to our school however only one letter can be handed out, how would you plead your case that you are an exemplary candidate for our school? -Hardest one to answer for me but I think I did it well.
18. If you could go back and change your study habits, how would you change them?
19. Do you have any questions for us specifically?

Case Western

First Interviewers: Asked about childhood and interjected with questions as the story was being told. For Example: "Oh so you played Soccer. How long did you play?"

Second Interviewer: Had interviewee ask him questions for an hour and 20 minutes

Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

The format of this school was a three person panel consisting of a DO physician, a Ph.D., and a 3rd or 4th year medical student. The environment was not too stressful. The interviewers seemed genuinely interested in getting to know me as a person.

The interviewers had only seen my resume and my supplemental application with essays about why I thought CCOM was the right school for me and what could I contribute to their campus.

1. Why osteopathic medicine/Why our school?
2. Tell me about your research/item on the resume?
3. Give an example of when you were in leadership
4. Tell me about a patient that impacted you from any of your healthcare experiences (volunteering/EMT).
5. Why medicine in general?
6. Was there ever a time when you had disagreements or conflict with a group? What did you do in that situation?
7. If you were not able to be a physician, what would you be?
8. Tell us what you do to handle stress.
9. What is one thing you would want us to know about you that is not in your application or resume?
10. Do you have any questions for us?

The Commonwealth Medical College

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

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?

PA program interview. 2 individual interviews and one group interview

Group Prompt- Considering how medical technology has advanced since the PA profession began, where do you see the PA profession moving in the future? (Discuss for 20 minutes in a group of 5)

Individual

1. What ability (super power) would you have if you could pick one?
2. Why Duke?
3. What role do you want to play in the PA profession and its advancement?
4. As a PA what can you/will you do to further the profession?
5. How do you want to be viewed by your coworkers?
6. What habits do you have that will help you balance the workload of PA school?
7. What specific things have you done to prepare yourself to be a PA?
8. What motivates you in life/medicine?
9. Name one weakness you have.

East Carolina Medical School – Brody School of Medicine

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?

Another student's experience:

BSOM holds two, back to back, interviews. The first one has a 2nd or 3rd year med student.

They asked:

1. Why do you want to be a doctor?
2. Why not take the PA, PT, OT, route.
3. You have done everything you can medically for a patient, how do you go about telling them that there is nothing more they can do?
4. How do you cope with the loss of a patient you were heavily invested in?
5. How do you best reach cultures you are unfamiliar with?

6. A classmate says that your answer is wrong, you know for a fact that you are right, how do you go about letting them know that?
7. What four words would your siblings use to describe you?
8. What are your other plans should we choose to not accept you? (I think this was specific to me because I applied early decision).

As a final note, I put in my application that I've cut hair for free for my entire undergraduate, and both of my interviewers brought this up of their own accord. My first interviewer told me he was joking with his wife in particular that he was going to ask me to cut his hair during our interview; it was pretty funny.

The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)

1. Structure:

- Welcome to campus
- Faculty interview (had my application in front of them)

---2 faculty @ 30 minutes each

- VCOM introductory speech by admissions
- Tour of the medical school
- Lunch (provided)
- 2nd year student interview (30 min)
- Tour of Spartanburg, SC
- Financial aid presentation

2. Topics:

--Faculty:

1. Tell me a little about yourself.
2. Tell me about the research you've done.
3. Why do you want to come to VCOM?
4. Why do you want to practice medicine, especially osteopathic medicine?
5. What are your future goals with your medical career?

--2nd year student:

1. Have you ever had to deal with people unlike you?
2. Have you had to face some type of ethical decision?
3. What do you believe you possess that would make you a good fit for VCOM?
4. Have you had to work in a team atmosphere before and how did you handle it?

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 were really kind and wanted to make a good impression as much as I wanted to make a good impression on them.

Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Overall, the mock interview process prepared me well (in addition to just having Christian morals and learning through CU classes how to think critically about ethical issues from a biblical perspective). The interview was an MMI (that info is given online) and the questions were all medically relevant. I had 9 total interviewers. We were given 5 minutes to answer each prompt (except for one longer 13 minute traditional interview), but it usually took me about 3 minutes to answer. All of the interviewers were very conversational and continued to ask follow up questions until the 5 minutes were up. Additionally, none of the MMIs included actors, they all just asked my opinion given the prompt, or how I would deal with the given scenario.

Though the official "interview portion" was only an hour and a half long, I was at the school from 10am-6pm attending different sessions, having lunch with students, and going on a campus tour. Though I was on my guard all day, I am fairly certain that there was not a ton of formal evaluation happening outside of the official interview time. The students we interacted with repeatedly assured us that they had no say in admissions decisions and that we could relax and ask them things that we were truly wondering. At one point, however, a faculty member had us go around the room and share an "interesting fact" about ourselves (I definitely didn't take advantage of the opportunity as I should have, and I am not sure if the comment was being formally evaluated or not. I was sitting in the front row and he had me go first and it caught me off guard. I didn't think through the fact that it was an opportunity to showcase an important part of my application until we were halfway around the room and I realized that that was what everyone else was doing. Not a mistake I will make twice...). Other than that one comment, there wasn't much opportunity for us to talk, we just listened to a lot of presentations.

One thing that proved valuable that I learned while interviewing with you both was how to incorporate a list of "resume highlights" into my answers regardless of the question asked. I had a list of 7 points I wanted to hit and I was able to hit all 7 during my 13 minute interview. I was even able to bring up several of them during the MMI scenario questions. Thank you so much for helping me to think in this way- I left the interview feeling confident that I had been able to communicate the things I was wanting to highlight.

Georgetown University School of Medicine

Format: one traditional interview with faculty (or MS4) for 45 minutes

1. Tell me about your story
2. Tell me about your research
3. How has the day gone so far?
4. What three words would your friends use to describe you?
5. What questions do you have for me?

George Washington University – PA School

MMI Format – 10.5 minute interviews with faculty/students/PA's

1. From a list of various survival gear pick which you would use if stuck at sea. (and which you wouldn't want)
2. Given an email written by a student to a professor regarding his/her grading policies, give me your thoughts of the email.
3. Why George Washington. What interested you in the program?
4. What do you think about the PA profession potentially moving to doctoral degree, what affect will it have?
5. Given a graph of a social groups views on body image and the rate of heart disease, evaluate the data and give a reason why there might be a relationship.
6. You're a PA student in clinical rotation, tests suggest the patient most likely has cancer. When in the room with just the patient they ask if they have cancer and if they're going to die. What do you do?

Hardin-Simmons University

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?

High Point University PA Program

Two 15-minute individual interview: One with a faculty member me, one with a community member (many were future preceptors). Interviewers did not have our application in front of them so you really had to sell yourself.

Questions:

1. Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What area do you want to work in?
2. Describe a time that you encountered cultural diversity.
3. Why should we choose you?
4. Name an ethical decision you encountered. (My interviewer wanted more of an academic situation)
5. Name a time you experienced conflict with someone.
6. What experience do you have in the medical field?
7. Name a mistake you made. How did you handle it?
8. Tell me about yourself.

Very relaxed and conversational

Questions:

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?
3. What are the different settings of PT?

Individual said that this was a tense interview and felt like an interrogation.

Questions:

9. What does a PT do?
10. What does your typical day look like?
11. How would you respond if a coworker publicly criticizes you?
12. What are some current issues in physical therapy?

Indiana University School of Medicine

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?

Another individual's experience:

A 30-45 minute interview with the dean of the regional campus and a faculty member. I had a very pleasant experience there. My interviewers were very friendly and welcoming. Probably my most personal interview experience. I was impressed with the campus but would not choose to go to the Gary location if I had a choice. It was small and seemed to have less access to the big city resources that the Indy, Fort Wayne, or Lafayette campuses have. I will say that they seemed to be a very close, familial group.

Interview questions:

1. Tell us about a time you did something you regretted and what you learned from it.
2. How would you handle working with people who have a different belief systems or morals than you?
3. They asked several questions about my experience as a homeschooler and if the transition to college was difficult (they asked this very respectfully). We had a very good conversation about this topic.
4. We talked about their vision for the campus (specifically, I asked the dean). They loved talking about their vision for future growth and how they see the students as the conduits for future change.
5. Besides the listed questions, they asked very typical interview questions and we had a very natural conversation.

I will note that this interview was very different than my experience last year at IU. I think it totally depends on who interviews you.

Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine

Behavioral interview that was roughly 45 minutes long.

6. Tell me about a time when you had to take the lead on a project.
7. Tell me about a time when you had to think outside of the box to solve a problem.
8. Tell me about a time when you made a promise and had a hard time keeping it.
9. Tell me about a time when you encountered a problem and how did you solve it?

Kettering Physician Assistant School

1. What was a time where something did not go your way and how did you handle it?
2. What was a time in which you were criticized and how did you handle it?
3. You have a problem in front of you...what do you do to handle that problem?
4. What's a strength and weakness that you have?
5. What makes you stand out among these other students?
6. Tell me about yourself.
7. What do you think about attending a Christian/faith-based college?
8. Why Kettering?

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

I feel that my interview at LECOM at Seton Hill went very well. It was an hour and a half group interview with two faculty and seven interviewees. The group interview seemed to gauge listening and communication skills more than a panel interview would have. Following are the four questions they asked:

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Why did you choose osteopathic medicine?
3. Why are you here at LECOM? (In other words, why did you apply to LECOM at Seton Hill?)
4. What scares you the most about the Problem Based Learning pathway? (PBL is the only pathway offered at LECOM Seton Hill, although other pathways are available at their other campuses.)

Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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?

The interviews at LUCOM went well. I had two, one on one interviews, thirty minutes each, and I had good feedback from both of the interviewers. It was very conversational. Here are the questions I received:

1. How do you see yourself thriving at LUCOM?
2. Tell me about your international missions experiences.
3. Tell me about your most memorable shadowing experience.
4. What has been a significant challenge in your life?

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?

College of Veterinary Medicine:

Multiple Mini-Interviews (Three 7 minute interviews): interviewers were current LMU professors who were blinded to my application. Wholistic waitlist approach – did not inform me of my position.

Questions:

1. What is your greatest weakness?
2. What are two character traits you would change about yourself? What are you doing to change these things?
3. Tell me about a time you made a mistake.
4. What is a character quality that you do not like in other people?
5. What is the last book you read for pleasure?
6. What were your reasons for choosing to apply to LMU?
7. What has drawn you to the veterinary profession?
8. Tell me something that is a current problem for veterinarians within the public health realm and how would you handle that?
9. What is something you notice is advancing veterinary medicine currently?
10. Tell of a time when you were put under a lot of pressure and how did you react?
11. Tell of a time you made a bad decision and had to deal with the consequences?
12. Tell of a time you did not work well with a coworker.

Another Individual's Experience:

Interviewed with two interviewers at a time, rotating through two sets of interviews. Each interview will last 13 minutes with a two-minute wellness break in-between. In addition, your interviews will be blinded. There is a light on a computer in the room with you. It starts on a green light, then transitions to a yellow light when you have 1 ½ minutes, then to a red light when you have 30 seconds left.

Questions: Interviewee #1

1. Why do you want to be a vet?
2. What type of vet?
3. Why LMU?
4. Hobbies?
5. How do you stay on top of coursework?
6. What makes you unique?
7. How would your friends describe you?
8. What do you do if a client wants to put down a healthy animal?

Questions: Interviewee #2

1. Why did you choose Cedarville?
2. How would your teammates (can substitute friends or maybe family) describe you (aks strengths and weaknesses)?
3. How do you think veterinarians contribute to the community/society?
4. What is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare?
5. Have you ever been in conflict with someone (i.e. teammate, roommate) and how did you handle it?
6. Tell of a time where you made an irreversible mistake and had to deal with the consequences?
7. Tell of a day where everything just went wrong?
8. What is your proudest accomplishment?
9. How do you deal with change?

Questions: Interviewee #3

1. What is something in vet med in which your opinion has changed overtime?
2. Tell of a time you faced an ethical dilemma?
3. Tell of a time when you worked within a diverse group and what you accomplished.
4. Tell of a time when a complete stranger put trust in you.
5. How would you impact LMU?
6. What kind of veterinarian do you want to be?
7. Why LMU?
8. How do you handle stress? Academically?
9. What do you think the starting salary of a veterinarian is?
10. Tell of a time you did not get along with another employee.

Lock Haven Physician Assistant Program

This was an individual interview and took about 15 minutes. The interview was conducted with 2 faculty members and a current PA student. There was also a brief tour of the professional building and a Q&A with current students. They also had us do a biology quiz (did not count towards admissions) and write an essay. Overall, the entire process was extremely laid back.

1. Tell me about yourself and why you want to be a PA.
2. Name a time you failed.
3. How do you handle stress?
4. Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
5. Can you talk about a time you experienced conflict with a coworker?
6. What are the 3 worst things about you?
7. Do you have any questions for me?

Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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?

They had me sign a confidentiality statement so am not allowed to talk about the content but can talk about the Format.

Format: They have decided to switch to the MMI format to a “traditional” interview. I had two interviewers who were medical student, physicians, or faculty members. Each interview was 15 min.

Another individual’s experience:

Unfortunately, I was required to sign a confidentiality agreement as it relates to the content of the interview so I cannot share information about it. However, I will say that I was impressed with Marian. The faculty seemed to love their jobs, the students were thrilled to be there, and the culture was the best of all the schools I visited. I was accepted there and will most likely end up matriculating.

Marietta College Physician Assistant Program

Program Questions:

1. What is the biggest misconception people have about you?
2. What is a stressful situation? What did you learn from it?
3. Let's say the doctor is away. The patient thought they were seeing the doctor, but now they are seeing you. How do you handle the situation?
4. What's a fun fact about you?
5. Which character that most represents you would you be?
6. What would you bring to a potluck?
7. Tell a joke.
8. What prepared you most for the PA program and what will be your biggest support system?
9. What is a PA and their role on a healthcare team?
10. What would you do if you didn't get into PA school this year? Why PA?

Two group interviews with 3-5 panel members.

1. Why do you think we need Pas?
2. If you have a headache, what medication do you take?
3. How do you handle stress? How will you handle a rigorous PA Program?
4. What is one word your best friend would use to describe you?
5. Why Marietta?
6. What are your expectations about our program?
7. Name a time you were resilient
8. How will you prevent yourself from experiencing burnout?
9. If you could be any Disney princess or Marvel superhero, who would you be?
10. If a patient said, "You are really good at what you do, you should be a doctor," how would you respond?
11. If you get in your car after a stressful day, what song would you want to play on the radio?
12. Name a time you disagreed with authority
13. What is a fact about you that I would not know by looking at your application?

Marshall University School of Medicine

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

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

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?

Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

I was impressed with this school! They had the most impressive facilities of any of the universities I've seen. They had a culture of excellence and seemed to place a heavy emphasis on student success (especially as it relates to exam scores). The only downside is that they cost around \$80,000 a year. Not sure the extra cost would be worth it if you have a cheaper option. But, if I was from that area and did have any other acceptances, then I would probably go there. I had a 30 minute interview with faculty members and a 4th year student. It was very conversational and free-flowing. They were very kind and I could tell they were trying to give me the best opportunity to prove myself.

Interview Questions:

1. Give us a 1 minute elevator speech for why you want to be an osteopathic physician. (*I really think if any applicant would not be able to convince them that they want to be a DO in that first question, they might not be able to recover. That was their first question.*)
2. Tell us about your minors in Bible and Spanish? (*They seemed to be very open and interested in my Bible minor and my study abroad experience*).
3. Is healthcare a right or a privilege? Please explain to us your reasoning.

I think they really appreciated me asking thoughtful, detailed questions about the school. I was accepted there but turned them down due to cost. Especially in light of being accepted at Marian University.

Midwestern University Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine

Panel Interview for 30 minutes: One faculty member and one recent vet grad. They did not know any numbers (scores/grades) about my application but knew of my experience and rec letters. Holistic waitlist approach – did not inform me of my position.

Questions:

1. Scenario-based questions (future made up scenarios). Doctor left the surgery room and asked you (a student) to close the incision, what do you do?
2. Tell me a time you did not get along with someone in a superior position to you and how did you handle it?
3. Tell me something you could change about yourself and why?
4. Tell me a time you were in a position of authority and the person below you was not in agreement – how did you handle it and would you have handled it differently?
5. Tell me about your “childhood on the farm”.
6. What are the three most important qualities in a veterinarian and why?
7. List a few good characteristics about yourself.

Another individual’s experience in 2020:

Format: 30 minute interview. Two professors. Semi-blinded to application. Able to see volunteering/experience and VMCAS essay questions, but not grades/GPA/GRE, etc.

Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself – things you think we should know about you.
2. Why do you want to go to Midwestern?
3. “Scenario”-based question: if you were in a restaurant and your friends walked in and were talking about you, what would they say are your strengths/weaknesses?
4. Scenario-based question: if you are in a dissection group and one of your lab group members is going too quickly, cutting things, and you think they are impeding your learning, how would you handle this situation?
5. Tell about a time you made a mistake and how your actions affected someone else.
6. What are you looking for in a vet school to make you prepared – Day One ready (aka be prepared as soon as you leave vet school)?
7. Closing remarks: anything else you want to say/ask?

Other questions:

1. If you were an extern and a superior (more experienced vet) thinks one thing about patient, but based on symptoms you believe it is something else and you should therefore do something else (different treatment), what do you do?

2. Tell us of a time you've been put in an ethical dilemma
3. How do vets contribute to public health (more than one example)?

Northeastern Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)

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 ever 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

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. 1st 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. 2nd 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. 3rd Segment: More Questions
 - a. Can't remember these.
4. 4th 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 University College of Osteopathic Medicine

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?

Purdue University

Panel interview with two faculty members; one was blind to my application, the other had viewed it. Did not inform me of my waitlist position.

Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself/why you want to be a vet/what do you want to do as a vet
2. Example of a time that you felt like you failed
3. Ethical question: in a research lab, dogs are not given pain medication. What would you do?
4. What action would you take if you found out that a classmate was cheating?
5. Example of how science has impacted veterinary medicine
6. If you don't get into vet school this year, what will you do?
7. Discussed the financial burden of pursuing a career in veterinary medicine. The great difference between starting salary and the average debt after graduation. How has this impacted the veterinary profession?
8. What are your deciding factors when choosing a veterinary school?

Ross University

Online interview (skype-type interview). Roughly 1 hour time frame. Closely followed application, asked questions based from it. Very relaxed and personal-based questions, getting to know you/who you are. Not entire list of questions from interview.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a vet?
2. Why Ross/how did you hear about Ross/did you apply to any other international schools?
3. Where do you plan on practicing veterinary medicine?
4. If everything went according to plan, what would it look like if you were a practicing veterinarian right now?
5. Have you thought about how you are going to pay for vet school?
6. Are your parents supportive of your pursuit to be a vet?
7. How do you feel about leaving family/friends to go to vet school in Virgin Islands?
8. How well do you deal with stress?
9. Explain the progression of your studying habits over time – how has your studying changed evolved from your freshman year to now?
10. Based on your clinical experience (veterinary/research), what is the greatest takeaway/insight from those experiences?
11. How do you plan on studying/doing well in vet school?
12. Is there anything else you would like the vet school committee to know about you as an applicant?

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

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

Texas A&M College of Medicine

- Format: two traditional interviews (20-30 minutes), one with an MS4, one with faculty
- Faculty interview
 - What challenges do you predict you'll face 10-20 years into your practice?
 - How would you handle this situation: a homeless family approaches you as you are running through a park. They ask you for money.
 - If you know, where would you like to practice medicine (say Texas, this is a huge part of their mission)
 - What questions do you have for me?
- Student interview:
 - What challenges do you predict you'll face as a medical student?
 - Tell me about a time you experienced difficulty relating to someone of a different race. What made the situation difficult and how did you handle it?
 - What questions do you have for me?

Texas Tech El Paso – Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

- Format: two traditional interviews (20-30 minutes), each with faculty
- 1st interview (Manuel Schydlower)
 - Why medicine?
 - What do you think of El Paso?
 - Why did you apply to this school specifically?
 - Tell me a little bit about all of your research
 - So what do you do for fun outside of medicine and how will that help you to balance the stress of being a medical student?
 - Is healthcare a privilege or a right?
 - What's one thing you would like me to tell the committee when we meet?
 - Do you have any questions for me?
- 2nd interview (Paul Ogden)
 - "I ask these 7-8 questions to every interviewee"
 - Tell me about yourself and your family
 - Why medicine?
 - Greatest strength
 - Greatest weakness
 - If you were king and able to change one thing about healthcare today, what would you change and why? *(this was followed by a long conversation about healthcare issues, so definitely read up!)*
 - If you were the attending physician in charge of allocating resources in an ICU during a natural disaster and there were more patients in need than resources, who would get the life-saving resources and why?
 - *After fumbling around a bit and saying some pros and cons of different decision methods, I went with my EMS training and basically explained SALT triage (I guess it worked because I got accepted)*
 - Tell me about a time you witnessed bullying or discrimination. What do you do?

The Ohio State University College of Medicine Interview

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?

Another individual's experience:

Format: very conversational, student and faculty (45-50 minutes each)

First Interviewer: Student (MS2)

1. Tell me about yourself
2. What activities demonstrate your commitment to service
3. What are some of your strengths and weaknesses
4. 10 years from now, what do you want to be doing?
5. (Optional) how would you add diversity to the incoming class?
6. (Optional) gap year question
7. Tell me about a time you thought critically.
8. Tell me about a time you learned something about yourself.
9. What questions do you have for me?

Faculty:

1. Tell me about a time when you dealt with criticism. What did you do?
2. How do you balance XYZ (activities in application)?
3. Questions?
4. Anything else you'd like me to convey to the committee that votes?
 - a. "I fill out a form evaluating and listing your research hours with comments on every part of written application, then a different committee reviews everything and votes."

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?

The Ohio State University School of Occupational Therapy

OSU sent me an email with some interview questions to practice. I also heard from other Cedarville Allied Health girls who were interviewed for the program last semester how the format of the interview works. It is four separate rooms, one question per room, and five minutes for each room for a total of 20 minutes.

We would first like for you to review the personal statement requirements from the application instructions: *your statement should address why you selected OT as a career and how an Occupational Therapy degree related to your immediate and long-term professional goals. Describe how your personal, educational, and professional background will help you achieve your goals.*

We would also like you to read and consider the following questions/topics. This will help prepare you for the types of questions you will be asked during your Interview Session:

1. What is the most challenging obstacle you have faced at work, school, or another environment? How did you deal with it and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Think about an experience in which you had to make an ethical decision. What decision did you make, what influenced your decision making process, and who was affected by the decision you made?
3. Begin to think about an experience in which you had to take a formal or informal leadership role within a group or organization.

The Ohio State University School of Optometry

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?

What is your goal in pursuing Optometry?

The Ohio State Dental Interview

Format was four interviews in a row. You would walk into a room and read a bio of your first interviewer for five minutes, and then turn around and have a fifteen-minute interview with that person. You would then turn around, read the next bio for five minutes, then turn around, and do another 15 minutes. Two tables had two interviewers and two tables had one interviewer. Questions were very conversational. Two tables had prompts about ethical questions, and two tables just asked questions. They seemed to have read my bio carefully beforehand.

Questions:

1. How would you deliver bad news? (And lots of career questions directly of this, like how would you want bad news brought to you, what specific details would you give, what is a problem you've seen with doctors giving bad news, ect. They really stressed this question.)
2. Show that you would be able to work well, help your classmates, and give examples of how you have done that.
3. Tell me why you chose dentistry/ tell me why you chose dentistry / tell me about the medical trip you went on to the Dominican Republic.
4. There were tons of questions directly from things that were mentioned on my application, such as things I had written or things I had done.
5. Do you have a dog?
6. Give examples of how you have served people.

The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

2019 Interview:

Panel interview with one alumnus and one current student; both were blind to my application. From feedback, the main categories they were evaluating were:

1. Leadership
2. Self awareness/adaptability
3. Knowledge of the profession
4. Teamwork/conflict resolution
5. Interpersonal skills

Questions: Interviewee #1

1. What roles do veterinarians have in society beyond private practice? (*asked many follow-up questions about experiences I had within these roles, like public health*)
2. Tell about a time you demonstrated leadership, how you lead others, what the team accomplished
3. Example of a time you faced conflict with a teammate or partner, how you handled it
4. Example of how you responded to a stressful/unexpected event
5. How do you expect to handle burnout/compassion fatigue?

Questions: Interviewee #2

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. Leadership example and how you motivated team members?
3. Difference of opinion you had with someone and how you resolved it?
4. Opportunities/different avenues of work in veterinary medicine?
5. What my vet interests are and how you prepared for them?

2020 Interview:

Panel interview with one faculty member and one current student; both were blind to my application. Total of 4 questions in 30 minutes. Given the remainder of time to ask questions.

Questions:

1. What interests you in veterinary medicine? What have you done to prepare for those interests?
2. Tell of a time (academic, personal, or from a job) where there was a situation out of your control. How did you handle it? What did you learn from it?
3. Speak of a leadership experience (either as the leader or supporting a leader) and tell how you motivated others. What did you accomplish? What did you learn about leading?

4. Scenario in conflict resolution: you are a 1st year student in anatomy lab. You are in a lab group and one person in the group is monopolizing dissection time. Explain how you would resolve this conflict from the perspective of the faculty member in charge of the lab, the dissection monopolize, and one of the other lab group members (All 3).

Thomas Jefferson University – Sidney Kimmel Medical College

Format: Most laid-back of anything, they explained that being invited to interview was the competitive part and that the interviews should just be two relaxed “conversations” where you get to ask questions and see if the school is a good fit. 1 student (blinded to app), 1 faculty (open file)

Student Interview (closed file, 25-30 minutes, in common area)

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Tell me about your family
3. What would you do if you had a free weekend?
4. What is something not many people know about you?
5. What (career) would you do if you couldn't do medicine at all?
6. What's something you learned from doing EMS (after I brought it up)
7. What questions can I answer for you (HUGE part of the 30 minute interview)

Faculty (open file, 45 minutes, she went long)

Did not ask me any structured interview questions, asked a couple things about my app:

1. How has your day been so far?
2. Why Cedarville?
3. What do you think of Philadelphia
4. How did your student interview go? (then proceeded to explain that “they’re just supposed to answer all your questions and casually assess if they think you’d fit with the student body here and if you have anything particularly unique that you’d add to the student body”)
5. Have you had/will you have a chance to explore Philadelphia?

Literally just told me all the school had to offer and asked if I had any additional questions, explained their deliberation process (faculty attends committee meeting and presents applicant as well as info from student interview, everyone reviews app and votes, 1-6 weeks post interview, I was accepted exactly 1 week after my interview by phone call with Dean Callahan)

Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

The interview was conversational and we talked primarily about my background. Most of the questions I received would not apply to other applicants from CU. However, there were two questions that you could add to your list of interview questions;

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Is there anything that is not in your application that you would like to tell us about?

University of Arizona College of Medicine

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.

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

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.

University of the Cumberland—Physician Assistant Program

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?

University of Dayton – Physical Therapy School

1. We work a lot in groups here, could you please explain what role you typically play in groups, how you do in groups, and provide an example of conflict management within a group?
2. Could you please give us some of your strengths and weaknesses?
3. Everyone has a time in their life when they fail at something. Please give us an example of this, and how you coped with it.
4. I foresee you being accepted into several programs, so what will your decision making process be once you find out where all you are accepted?
5. Do you have any questions for us?

The interview was conducted by one faculty member (who asked questions 1, 3, 4, and 5) and a third-year student in the program (who asked question 2). It was an individual interview, not a group interview.

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.

Interview was very relaxed and conversational

Questions:

1. Tell me about your family?
2. What are you passionate about?

University of Illinois College of Medicine

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?

Interview was very relaxed and very conversational.

Questions:

1. What does a PT do?
2. What does a PT do in acute care setting?

University of Iowa School of Medicine

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

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?

Another individual's experience:

Interview #1

Talked a lot about my international experience (Paraguay, Conversational English Classes). He had traveled extensively and founded the international program at UofL.

1. What is currently happening in Australia? (Jan. 2020)
2. What is an obstacle that you have overcome?
3. What is an ethical question that you are currently thinking through?

4. How do you handle difficult people?
5. What is your biggest concern about medical school?
6. What example of your humanitarian effort would you like me to share with the committee?

Interview #2

1. Why did you choose Cedarville?
2. Tell me about yourself.
3. If I talked to someone who knew you well, what three words would they use to describe you and why?
4. Describe your shadowing experiences.
5. Tell me about an experience you had with diversity.
6. Why do you want to pursue practicing medicine as a physician rather than any other medical profession?

University of Michigan Medical School Interview

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 (4th 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 Missouri

Interview was about 15 minutes long, in front of 3 committee members, and they were actively looking at my application in front of them and pulling specific personalized

Questions:

7. What does the University of Missouri offer you that other schools don't?
8. When have you experienced conflict with another? i.e. student, employer, employee, etc.
9. How do you time manage?
10. What is your experience with large animals?
11. What are your research experiences?
12. What has been the most interesting case you've seen?

University of North Carolina Medical School

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

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)

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?

University of Texas Austin – Dell Medical School

Format: One traditional interview with faculty (25 minutes), 1 group activity/interview (20 minutes, with 4 other interviewees, 5 MMI stations)

Traditional interview:

13. What questions do you have for me (right off the bat)
14. After answering a question I had, he said, "Before I answer that let me introduce myself!"
15. This question became the basis of our entire conversation and interview
16. So what are you interested in in medicine? What do you wanna do?
17. This school is huge on diversity and I hope they don't hold that against you because you look just like my entire medical school class did (white/male), but they want me to ask how you would add diversity to the class
 - *This was followed by a little rant where he was going on about how he didn't understand why they emphasized diversity*
 - *I just talked about diversity of thought and experience (working in a warehouse, being an athlete, going to a religious university, etc.)*
18. So, if you were accepted, would you come here? How have you liked the school so far?

MMI (5 stations, 2 minutes to read, 6 to answer)

1. Describe a time someone disappointed you. What made you feel this way and why do you think you were disappointed?
2. You are president of a committee that approves student protesting about gun rights (faculty ask you to deny them)
3. You are waiting outside office hours and overhear a student receive information about which chapters will be on a test
4. You witness someone stealing from a store. What would you do and how would you handle the situation? What if it were an old lady? Someone who needed the item to survive.
5. You are a physician who knows a little Spanish but not enough to speak it to a patient so a translator is present to deliver the message that your patient has an important piece of the information. She claims she is simply respecting the patient's culture by withholding this medical information. What would you do?
 - *I discussed autonomy vs. respect for culture and ultimately went with autonomy being more important (but obviously I tried to discuss that in a respectful, sensitive way)*
 - *"I believe this patient would forgive me, as an outsider to her culture, for failing to adhere to their cultural practices because I was simply trying to prioritize her*

ability to have ownership and autonomy over her care (which is the top priority in our culture)

University of Texas Houston – McGovern Medical School

- Format: two traditional interviews (20-30 minutes), two with faculty
- 1st interview (PhD – felt very disinterested)
 - Why medicine
 - What have you learned from your shadowing experience
 - What is EMS like in a rural community
 - What questions do you have for me?
 - *I thought this went terribly, but I ended up getting in so don't freak out too much if an interviewer seems off*
- 2nd interview (MD/PhD – super friendly and talkative)
 - “I don’t read the applications until after the interview that way I allow you to highlight the areas you feel are strongest and everyone is given a clean slate at the beginning of the interview.”
 - Tell me about yourself
 - Why medicine?
 - What is something you are most proud of?
 - When was a time you were disappointed in yourself?
 - What are some of the challenges facing healthcare?
 - What do you think of McGovern?
 - What questions do you have for me?

University of Texas Medical Branch

- Format: two traditional interviews (20-30 minutes), two with faculty
- 1st interview (PhD)
 - Very kind lady who spoke very little English
 - Asked me how I was enjoying the day and what I liked about UTMB
 - Asked if I was comfortable with the case-based learning (because apparently a lot of their MS1's transfer to other schools because they don't like it...)
 - After these brief introductory questions she asked me to explain every single thing on my TMDSAS application and she jotted down notes
- 2nd interview (MD)
 - Why medicine?
 - Why UTMB?
 - What do I do outside of medicine?
 - Got asked some child psychiatry thing and (obviously) had no answer...then the guy was like "Oh, I'm so sorry, I've been interviewing for a child psychiatry fellowship all day and I forgot you were applying to the medical school."
 - Nothing else memorable or difficult, just a conversation about what I was interested in within medicine and outside of medicine.
 - What questions do you have for me?

University of Texas San Antonio – Long School of Medicine

Format: *two traditional interviews (20-30 minutes), one with as MS4, one with faculty*

MS4

Flipped format, “you interview me and ask questions so you can get a sense of if this school would be a good fit for you. I’m just supposed to say on a scale of 1-5 if I think you would fit with the student body here”.

1. “So I’ll start by telling you a little bit about me then if you could maybe tell me a little bit about yourself and your journey to being here today?”
2. The rest of the interview was back and forth conversation about family, faith (he was Seventh Day Adventist), life in San Antonio, EMS, etc.
3. MS4 flipped interview to assess how you’d fit with the student body. I never got asked the “structured questions” because the conversation just flowed the entire time, but supposedly there was a list of questions he meant to ask. I asked about medicine and family balance (my interviewer was married), worked in the areas of medicine I was interested in, basically had a very relaxed conversation.

Faculty

Very casual and laid back

1. So what’s your plan? What do you want to do in medicine?
2. How legit is being a Christian at Cedarville? I went to Loa Linda and currently go to church every Sunday
3. Do you know what HIPAA is?
4. Strength
5. Weakness
6. Multiple ethical scenario questions
7. A teacher uses a racial slur but it’s of his own race, is this appropriate or would you tell administration?
8. A student partied all night and lost their 500 pages of specialized notes. You have the same notes, and it’s the night before the exam. What would you do?
9. A professor says it’s important for students to take a summer prep class prior to taking her organic chemistry class in the fall. You take the class and half the class does not and enjoys surfing and having a good summer. After the first exam in the fall everyone else begins to complain because they did terribly. What do you think the teacher is obligated to do?
10. What questions do you have for me?

Takeaways

- I talked about my faith a lot, and while this would not fly at every school, in Texas, with these interviewers, it worked totally fine (I got accepted). God will work out the details.
- They really really wanted the interview day to be low-stress (I think they achieved that goal)

- Also, as a white male, religion can be a very strong aspect of diversity if you are genuine. Obviously don't be disingenuous, but be yourself. Being a Cedarville student is diverse in and of itself.
- Both interviewers had read my personal statement. The MS4 knew my application. The MD did not as much: very very casual and laid back.

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?

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

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?

Another individual's experience:

Does not have interviews, but has a supplemental application with additional questions (space to include any additional information that I thought would be helpful). They informed me of my position on the waitlist.

Virginia Commonwealth University

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, and 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?

Overall, the mock interview process prepared me well (in addition to just having Christian morals and learning through CU classes how to think critically about ethical issues from a biblical perspective). The interview was an MMI (that info is given online) and the questions were all medically relevant. I had 9 total interviewers. We were given 5 minutes to answer each prompt (except for one longer 13 minute traditional interview), but it usually took me about 3 minutes to answer. All of the interviewers were very conversational and continued to ask follow up questions until the 5 minutes were up. Additionally, none of the MMIs included actors, they all just asked my opinion given the prompt, or how I would deal with the given scenario.

Though the official "interview portion" was only an hour and a half long, I was at the school from 10am-6pm attending different sessions, having lunch with students, and going on a campus tour. Though I was on my guard all day, I am fairly certain that there was not a ton of formal evaluation happening outside of the official interview time. The students we interacted with repeatedly assured us that they had no say in admissions decisions and that we could relax and ask them things that we were truly wondering. At one point, however, a faculty member had us go around the room and share an "interesting fact" about ourselves (I definitely didn't take advantage of the opportunity as I should have, and I am not sure if the comment was being formally evaluated or not. I was sitting in the front row and he had me go first and it caught me off guard. I didn't think through the fact that it was an opportunity to showcase an important part of my application until we were halfway around the room and I realized that that was what everyone else was doing. Not a mistake I will make twice...). Other than that one comment, there wasn't much opportunity for us to talk, we just listened to a lot of presentations.

One thing that proved valuable that I learned while interviewing with you both was how to incorporate a list of "resume highlights" into my answers regardless of the question asked. I had a list of 7 points I wanted to hit and I was able to hit all 7 during my 13 minute interview. I was even able to bring up several of them during the MMI scenario questions.

Washington University in St. Louis

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

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.*

Another Response:

1. Why osteopathic medicine?
2. What does a good physician look like to you?
3. Besides golf, what do you like to do?
4. Tell me about the Civil Rights Bus Tour.
5. Will moving from home affect your support group?
6. Are you a servant?
7. Do you have any experience with OMT?

These are the main questions, and then there were a few follow-ups depending on my answer. They worked hard to make me feel comfortable, and there was a conversational feel to the interview.

Another individual's experience:

1. Why D.O.?
2. Why WVSOM?
3. What specialties have you considered?
4. How would your best friend describe you? What about your mother?
5. I see you had C's in a few Calculus courses. How did you overcome your struggle with math?
(weakness in application)
6. What are some traits of a good doctor?
7. How do you study?
8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
9. How do you expect to meet the increased demands of medical school?

WVSOM is known for family practice medicine and a focus on rural communities. They also like to see applicants who would plan to continue working in WV at some point. I felt like they were looking for answers that were trying to relate to their values.

Wisconsin Academy of Rural Medicine (WARM)

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

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 conversational, 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.

1. What's the value of cultural diversity and understanding?
2. What is a specific thing you have learned about Latinos' view of healthcare?
3. 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?
4. In your work as an EMT, have you taken an interest in emergency medicine?
5. 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?
6. *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.*

Another individual's experience:

As I'm sure you're aware, BSOM holds two, back to back, interviews. The first one has a 2nd or 3rd year med student.

They asked:

1. Why do you want to be a doctor?
2. Why not take the PA, PT, OT, route.
3. You have done everything you can medically for a patient, how do you go about telling them that there is nothing more they can do?
4. How do you cope with the loss of a patient you were heavily invested in?
5. How do you best reach cultures you are unfamiliar with?
6. A classmate says that your answer is wrong, you know for a fact that you are right, how do you go about letting them know that?
7. What four words would your siblings use to describe you?
8. What are your other plans should we choose to not accept you? (I think this was specific to me because I applied early decision).

Another individual's experience:

1. What was a good quality you inherited from your mother? What about your father?
2. We have plenty of Cedarville students that have run through this college with great success. However, Cedarville is a very homogeneous school. What do I tell the admissions group when they ask me how that's affected you, not having diversity there?
3. So from your experience shadowing doctors, what makes being a doctor hard?
4. What do you do when people don't like you? How often does that happen? If you are working in a team-based learning activity, and some people in your group say 'I really don't like (your name)'s answer,' what do you do?
5. What did you sign up for?" *(He asked this to see how well I registered the enormity of the decision.)*

Some questions not in a database that were given by an individual.

1. What was your favorite research experience?
2. If you had an unlimited amount of money and a week off, what would you do?
3. How do you deal with disappointment and give me an example
4. Why do you not become a physician and not a nurse or a PA
5. What are some of the differences between French medical care and America medical care? (I grew up in France)

Another individual's experience:

M1 and M2's were in class during the interviews, so I had two physicians who interviewed me. Both were women and practicing medicine. One had taken notes on my application so I was able to elaborate on it a lot.

General Questions I was asked

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Where do you see yourself in the next 10-15 years? (Rough Estimate
3. Explain a challenge and how you worked through it?
4. Why Physician and not PA, Nurse, etc.?

The Interviewers knew my application well. Interview was very relaxed and the interviewers were very open. Lots of time for questions, so students interviewing should have a page of questions, some geared toward a faculty member and some geared toward a student.

1. What is the biggest or most important aspect of your application that you want me to convey to the admission committee?
2. What role you usually play on a team? Tell me about a time when you were on a team and things did not go well.
3. How do you manage stress?
4. I see you live out of state. Why would you want to come here instead of going to school in your state of residency?
5. Do you read much? What book recommendations do you have for me?
6. What specialties are you interested in and where do you see yourself within medicine ten years down the road?
7. What things do you enjoy in your free time?
8. How have you adjusted study habit to increase efficiency and improve scores in various classes?
9. Extensive questions about why I chose Cedarville such as 'So is the academic program nationally ranked then?' After I explained that rigorous academics was one of the reasons, I chose CU.
10. What are you most proud of?
11. I understand that you are interested in medicine, but why specifically do you want to be a physician?

Another individual's experience:

Wright St. Interview Questions

M1 and M2's were in class during the interviews (mine was on a Wednesday), so I had two physicians interview me. Both were women and practicing medicine. One had taken notes on my application and went through it allowing me to elaborate on a lot. She also said that I had two really nice letters of

recommendation- one from a research prof over the summer and the other was the Cedarville committee letter.

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Where do you see yourself in the next 10-15 years? (rough estimate)
3. Explain a challenge and how you worked through it.
4. Why physician and not PA, nurse, etc.?

Questions specific to me:

-Tell me about your trip to Paraguay

-(after finding out my younger sister goes to Cedarville) Did you help your younger sister acclimate to college? I talked through some examples.

Multiple Mini Interview Format

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 1st-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

Example Interview Questions:

1. 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?
2. What contribution do you think you can make 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 this year?
6. Who have been your "Role models", and how have they influenced you?
7. 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.
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 who won't take his/her BP medication regularly because they don't "feel that 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 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?
11. What sorts of service activities have you been part of? What do you believe you have gained from those experiences?
12. What has been your greatest disappointment thus far in life? How has (or did) it affect you? How have you coped with it?
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 these?

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 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?
25. How do you handle conflict or disagreement with a fellow student, teammate, or 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 through that?
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, ect. 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?
34. How do you think that healthcare reform (Affordable Care Act) will affect the (PA, OT, PT) profession?
35. What are your views regarding euthanasia? Medically assisted suicide? Are you comfortable with DRN orders?
36. 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?
37. 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?

Additional Resources

The Association of American Medical Colleges has produced an online database that allows you to browse, and compare information about U.S and Canadian medical schools and various other BS/MD programs. If you are interested in using this as a resource we suggest you contact Dr. Melissa Burns for more information.

Helpful resources:

Read everything on [The Ohio State University College of Medicine website](#) (even if you didn't/don't apply there)

- They've taken the time to clearly outline what they (and just about any other medical school) does to review and evaluate applicants

What's wrong with healthcare:

- [Alcade | Ten Backward Things About Health Care](#)
- [Universal Health Care Definition, Countries, Pros, Cons](#)
- [What's New for 2020 Open Enrollment and the ACA? Repeal, Premiums, HRAs, State Mandates](#)
- Read the [UT Austin – Dell Medical School website](#), very helpful
 - [Redesigning Clinical Care](#)

Questions to ask:

- [Selecting a Medical School: 35 Questions I Wish I Had Asked](#)
- [Medical School Admission Requirements](#)

School Specific Interview Questions:

- [Allopathic Medical Interview Feedback List](#)

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Rita Heaton

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Emilie Dalavai

Revised April 2014
Erin Scheunemann

Revised October 2014
Tyler Dicks

Revised December 2014
Emilie Dalavai

Revised February 2016
Kaity Kenniv

Revised December 2016
Cherleya Carey

Revised July 2017
Vanessa Wyn

Revised October 2018
Brittney Oliver

Revised November 2019
Samie Scanlan

Revised July 2020
Brittney Oliver

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