

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE END OF YOUR MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT THE END OF YOUR MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

After what might have been an impatient waiting period after submitting your secondaries, if you've received <u>medical school interview</u> invitations, congrats! You're almost at the end of the application process, and your chances of gaining admission in the cutthroat process have increased. While you must obviously practice the most common interview questions, there's another component you must prepare. More likely than not, you will be asked if you have any questions for the student or faculty member. This should have a <u>few</u> <u>standard questions prepared</u>. In fact, a student with no questions when asked may seem disinterested. So before you think you're ready to face the committee, make sure you've thought about questions you would like to ask your interviewers at the end.

To guide you through some ideas, we've included a list of questions to ask at medical school interviews geared towards faculty members and current students, along with factors to consider when thinking about how to strategize this final component of this make-or-break phase.

LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK AT MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Be wary of the role of your interviewer before you ask them literally any question. Your interview might be conducted by a faculty member (who could also be a practicing clinician) The traditional interview is typically one-on-one and lasts for about 30 to 45 minutes, so depending on how much time you have, you need to think about a handful of **questions to ask at medical school interviews** and keep the conversation going. You don't want this crucial third stage to end abruptly or too early!

As you plan the **questions to ask at medical school interviews**, think carefully about what it is that you actually want to know about the school. Your questions could range from clarification about the curriculum to curiosity about how students spend their weekends. Take a look at the questions we've included to get an idea of the way you should phrase them.

QUESTIONS TO ASK A CURRENT STUDENT

- Why did you choose this medical school? Which components stood out to you the most?
- If you could change anything about this medical school, what would you change?
- What is this town like?
- If there was something you could add to the program what would it be?

- How do your peers like X curriculum?
- Are clinical grades pass/fail? How do you like the pass/fail (or not having your school implemented pass/fail)?
- What are the opportunities for research?
- Are there any upcoming events or projects at your school that you're looking forward to?
- What's something you wish you knew before starting medical school?
- What is social life like for students? Do you spend time with your peers outside the classroom?
- What medical school committees have medical students on them?
- Do any of the students have outside jobs?
- What's your current favorite class?
- Who is your favorite professor?
- Have your goals changed since starting medical school?
- What kind of extracurricular facilities are available at the school?
- Does the school offer career counseling services?
- How would I get academic help if needed?
- Do students have electronic access to journals or textbooks?
- Are there services/staff available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
- Is there a particular spot where you enjoy studying? Do students have designated study spaces?
- What's a typical day like for you?
- What opportunities are available for students to volunteer in the community? Are you involved with community service?
- Do students generally live close to campus? Do you need a car to get around?

QUESTIONS TO ASK A FACULTY MEMBER

- Why did you choose this medical school?
- How long have you been a faculty member here?
- What do you look for in a good medical student?
- What are some of your favorite things about this city?

- What does a typical day look like?
- How many hospitals do students rotate in?
- How do you balance teaching and seeing patients?
- What have been some traits of your most successful students?
- What are some of your favorite aspects of working at this school?
- Did you always know you wanted to practice your particular specialty? What made you ultimately decide?
- What makes this medical school unique? What are the most unique programs or opportunities here?
- How much clinical exposure do students get in the first two years?
- Will I be able to take electives in the pre-clinical or clinical years?
- Are there opportunities for students to design, conduct, and publish their own research?
- What are the policies for taking time off for research opportunities?
- How are students evaluated academically? How are clinical evaluations performed?
- How does the admissions company value diversity when it comes to the student body?

As you prepare for this grueling third stage, take a deep breath and ask yourself what you're genuinely curious about when it comes to aspects of a medical school. What are you looking for from your MD experience? Use your intrigue to guide you towards focusing your questions that help the interviewer learn more about you, and gauge your commitment towards medicine and their program.