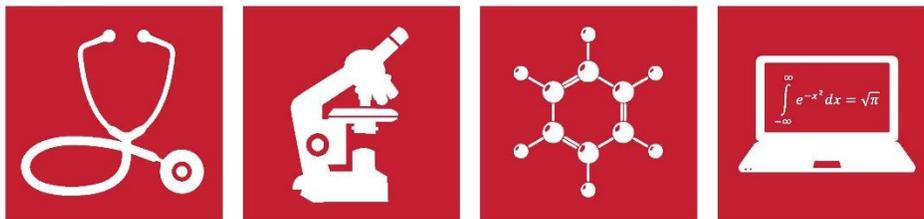


Health Professions Mock Interview Questions



Health Professions & STEM Career Development Center

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Health Professions Interview Reminders

I. Pre-Interview Preparation

- a. Know yourself (your goals, strengths/weaknesses, motivations, etc.)
- b. Know *everything* you put in your application
- c. Prepare responses to common questions and PRACTICE!
 - i. Tell me about yourself
 - ii. Why do you want to be a doctor/dentist/etc.?
 - iii. Why our school? (Very important! You should expect this!)
 - iv. See common question lists
 - v. *Important: be sure that you provide full & detailed responses. Review the STAR technique.*
- d. Be well-informed about healthcare and factors affecting your intended profession:
 - i. Health-care reform/ political issues in healthcare
 - ii. How your practice is changing or may change in the future
 - iii. Advances in technology and biomedical research
 - iv. Ethical issues in healthcare
- e. Prepare questions for interviewers
 - i. Learn about the school before preparing questions
 - ii. Follow up on areas you have already researched, that you would like more info on
- f. Know the type of interview to expect: Traditional vs. MMI

II. Interview attire and appearance

- a. Suit and tie for men; suit for women (pants or skirt ok – watch hemline!)
- b. Mix and mingle events can be business casual (slacks, dress shirt, tie for men; skirt and sweater set for women) – when in doubt ask about dress code
- c. Accessories - keep it simple
- d. Manicured nails and well-groomed hair
- e. No strongly scented lotions, skip perfume/cologne

III. Handling yourself during the interview

- a. Eye contact, smile! Avoid arrogance!
- b. Watch your body language and voice tone/tenor
- c. Be aware of nervous laughter or other telling ticks (wringing your hands, playing with hair)
- d. Show enthusiasm and familiarity with your intended profession

IV. Post Interview etiquette

- a. Hand written note (best) or e-mail of sincere thanks

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General Questions – All Health Professions

About me

1. Tell me a little about yourself.
2. If you could change one aspect of your personality with a snap of your fingers, what would you change?
3. Describe your personality.
4. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
5. How would your teammates/peers describe you? How would your professors describe you? If we contacted your references now, what do you think they would say about you?
6. What are three things you want to change about yourself?
7. What do you do in your spare time?
8. What do you do to relieve stress?
9. Who would you say has been the most influential person in the last one-hundred years?
10. If you could invite four people to dinner, who would they be? Why?
11. What event taught you humility? How will this lesson improve you as a _____?
12. What kind of books do you like to read and why?
13. Who is your primary role model? What traits do they have that you would like to emulate?
14. What does the word “success” mean to you?
15. **Who would you say inspires you?**
16. Where will you be in 10-15 years?
17. Who is your favorite author?
18. What kind of community/volunteer work have you done?
19. Have you worked while you have been in school?
20. Have you had the opportunity to travel abroad?
21. What is your personal mission statement?
22. List five words that describe your character.
23. Describe your hobbies and interests.
24. What type of person do you enjoy being with? What type of person irritates you most and how have you dealt with these types of people?
25. **What motivates you each day?**
26. What accomplishment are you most proud of?
27. Do you have any particular populations you would like to work with? Have you worked with this type of population in the past?
28. Who has made the biggest impact on your career and why?

About Undergrad

29. Describe your best/least favorite course at FSC and why it falls into that category.
30. If you could start your college career all over again, what would you do differently?
31. In what extra-curricular activities did you participate? Why did you choose the ones that you did?
32. Why did you choose the undergraduate school you went to, and if you could, would you do anything differently?
33. What course was most academically challenging for you?
34. Why did you choose your undergraduate major?
35. How do you study? How many hours per night? How do you manage your time?
- 36.

General Professional School Questions

37. What interests you most about our school?
38. What makes you stand out from the person sitting next to you this morning?
39. What can you offer to the graduate program and/or the profession?
40. What do you think your biggest challenge will be in graduate school?
41. Why should we pick you instead of someone else?

“End of Interview Questions”

42. What makes you stand out from the person sitting next to you this morning?
43. What is one thing you want me to convey to the admission committee?
44. Anything else you want to share or wishes I had asked?
45. Do you have any questions for us?

Group question

46. As a group, decide the biggest issue facing our society today. This can be healthcare related or non-healthcare related. Also, pose a few suggestions for beginning to fix the problem. I will give you a few minutes to discuss and then please come back with one, unified group answer.

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Situational/Behavioral Questions

Adaptability

1. Tell me about a time when you had to compromise.
2. Describe a situation in which you were dependable or demonstrated initiative. One in which you were not as dependable as you would have liked.
3. Give an example of a time when you had two important projects/activities competing for your time. How did you handle? What happened?
4. Describe a time in which you had to adjust quickly to changes over which you had no control. What was the impact of the change on you? On your work or project?
5. Give me an example of how you have used your skills to adjust to varying work flows and differing assignments in the past.
6. Tell of a time when you were confronted with a difficult change and discuss how you were impacted. How did you respond to the change?
7. Tell me about a time when you had to deal with conflict. How did you handle it and how was it resolved?
8. Can you provide an example of how you have handled a stressful situation in the past?
9. Can you speak about a time you struggled (during college or work) and what you did to overcome that challenge?
10. Give me an example of a time when you had to think outside the box.
11. Tell me about the most difficult period of your life. How did you deal with this?
12. What is the most difficult decision that you've had to make?
13. How do you handle adversity?
14. At times our work load may feel unmanageable. Describe a time when you recognized that you were unable to meet multiple deadlines. What did you do about it?

Analysis

15. What steps do you take to analyze a problem before making a decision? Can you tell me about a time when you have taken these steps? What happened?
16. Describe a situation where you had to research and review information for the purpose of making a decision or recommendation.
17. Provide an example when you used tools such as survey data, research or statistics to define or solve a problem.

Communication (oral/written)

18. Tell me about a time when you received negative feedback on your performance by a co-worker/peer/professor and how you handled this situation.
19. Describe to me how you like to receive feedback, both positive and negative. Provide an example of each.
20. Tell me about a time when you were criticized unfairly.
21. Please provide details of a time when you had a miscommunication with a co-worker/peer. Were you able to resolve issues on your own and what steps did you take to communicate this?
22. Please share with me the most important constructive criticism you have ever received and how you used that criticism to change something about yourself.
23. Tell me something you know a lot about.

Goals – Setting and Measuring

24. What personal or work related goals have you established? How successful were you in accomplishing these goals? How did you know (measure) that you had achieved the goal?
25. Give me an example of an important work related goal that was established for you and the steps you took to achieve that goal?
26. What is the most rewarding experience of your life?

Integrity/Honesty/Trustworthiness

27. Tell about a time when you displayed honesty and integrity in a difficult situation.
28. Describe a situation you saw a peer/co-worker do something you thought was inappropriate. What did you do?
29. When was the last time you “broke the rules”? What was the situation and what did you do?
30. Have you ever faced an ethical or value conflict in your job/life? Explain the situation and how you handled.
31. Describe a time when your integrity was challenged.
32. Tell me about a time when you made a mistake. What did you do and how did you correct it?
33. If I were your supervisor and asked you to do something that you disagreed with, what would you do?

Leadership

34. Provide an example of a time when you took on the role of a leader in a committee or group. How did you lead the team and what were the outcomes?
35. Tell me about a time when you failed.
36. How do you handle failure?
37. Give an example of how you have motivated your team or a group of peers.
38. What is the most important skill of a good leader? Describe a time when you effectively used this leadership skill on the job.

Planning, Organizing, and Prioritizing

39. You have multiple tasks, each with the same due date. How do you handle multiple tasks at one time? How do you prioritize the tasks to insure that you will meet the set due dates?
40. What have you done or what "tools" do you use to be effective with your organization and planning?
41. How do you schedule your time and set priorities? How do you handle 20 things at once?
42. When you can't complete your daily work due to a special cause, how do you prioritize your workload the next day to ensure the prior day's work is not overlooked?

Teamwork

43. Tell of a time when you worked with a colleague who was not completing their share of the work. How did you work through it?
44. Describe a situation in which you have worked with a diverse group of people. What did you learn from that situation?
45. Please share an example of a situation where your team members disagreed with you. How did you respond? What was the final outcome?
46. Tell me about a time when you collaborated on a successful project.
47. Tell me about an experience you've had working on a team. What role do you tend to play when working on a team?

48. Describe a time when you may have found late in a shift/close to the due date that an important assigned task had been over looked. How did you handle the situation?
49. Give examples of your ability to delegate.
50. Tell me about an experience you've had working on a team. What role do you tend to play when working on a team?

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Medical School – Specific Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a Physician? Or Person who inspired you to do med?
2. What do you believe will be the hardest parts of the job?
3. Describe an interaction you have had with a patient that made an impact on you.
4. What have you done to prepare yourself for this profession?
5. What kind of stress do you see associated with this profession? And, how do you usually deal with stress?
6. Why choose medicine over some other career in health?
7. What are your specific goals in medicine? What do you intend to gain from a medical education?
8. What is the biggest challenge that is facing the medical field today?
9. What is your opinion about what we can do about the high cost of healthcare?
10. What are your thoughts on the current mental health crisis and how this is impacting healthcare workers?
11. What do you think will be the most difficult part of Medical School?
12. Describe an interaction you have had with a patient that made an impact on you.
13. How many hours a week do you plan on studying?
14. What event taught you humility? How will this lesson improve you as a physician
15. How do you think technology will impact the way we interact or assess patients in the future? OR How will medical innovation impact medicine?
16. Scenario: Your supervising MD tells you to do something that you know is dead wrong; what do you do?
17. Scenario: you have been walking with diabetic mother who did not monitor her levels/take insulin. How would you encourage them to take care of themselves?
18. Scenario: You are a third year medical student and you overhear a Physician joking with a resident about an elderly patient's actions. What do you do?
19. Scenario: You have a patient who was in a car accident and will die without an immediate blood transfusion but they have refused blood transfusions on the basis of their religious beliefs. What do you do?

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Veterinary School-Specific Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a veterinarian?
2. When did you decide veterinary was a good career choice for you?
3. What steps have you taken to confirm that you want to be a veterinarian?
4. What do you think being a veterinarian entails?
5. What do you feel are the most important qualities in being a good veterinarian?
6. What will you be doing in the veterinary field ten years from now?
7. What did you do to prepare for the GRE?
8. How will you handle the stress of veterinary school?
9. What do you think will be your greatest challenge in completing veterinary school?
10. Why do you believe you have the ability to undertake the study and work involved in veterinary school?
11. Does your family support your decision to become a veterinarian?
12. What did you like/dislike about veterinary offices you have observed?
13. What would you like to do if you are not accepted into veterinary school?
14. What steps have you taken to acquaint yourself with what a veterinarian does?
15. How do you think your role as a veterinarian fits in with your role as a member of the community?
16. Why did you choose veterinary school instead of medical school?
17. What aspects of your life experiences do you think makes you a good candidate for veterinary school?
18. If you are accepted into two veterinary schools of your top choice, what would you do to make up your mind?
19. How have your non-science courses and extracurricular activities prepared you for veterinary medicine?
20. What interests you outside of veterinary medicine and getting into veterinary school?
21. What will you do if you are not accepted for admission at any school this year?
22. What experiences have you had, academically and non-academically, that you think will help you in your relations with clients (animal's owner)?

Questions about the Veterinary School

23. Why do you want to attend [Veterinary School Name]? How are you a match for [Veterinary School Name]?
24. Describe your method of learning. How does this fit with [Veterinary School Name]?
25. What schools did you apply to and why?
26. What do you look for in a good veterinary school?
27. Why do you want to go to school here?
28. Why should [Veterinary School Name] choose you over other candidates?
29. What do you know about [Veterinary School Name] program?
30. What can you contribute to [Veterinary School Name]?

Current Issue/Scenario Questions

31. What are some of the most important issues you see facing veterinarians currently and in the coming years? How will you deal with these?
32. One day, a veterinary school classmate gives you a sheet containing questions for an upcoming exam. How would you handle the situation and what issues would you consider important in coming to a decision about what to do?

33. Name a situation where you had to make an ethical decision. What did you do?
34. What ethical standards should a veterinarian have?
35. What would you do with a client that repeatedly ignored your advice?
36. Tell me a time when you witnessed dishonesty and what did you do?
37. Give an example of a time you had a disagreement. How did you handle it?
38. What is the difference between animal rights and animal welfare? Why does this matter?
39. How do you feel about using animals in veterinary school or research?
40. An older couple are moving to an assisted living facility and cannot take their healthy eight year old dog with them. They have asked you to euthanize their pet. How would you handle this situation?
41. A client rushes in the veterinary office with a cat that has been hit by a car and will die immediately without medical attention. They only have \$45 which will not be nearly enough to cover the short and long term costs. What do you do?
42. How will you handle it if a patient dies because you made a mistake in diagnosis or treatment?
43. What do you do if you think the animal you are treating is being abused?
44. Describe a new method, procedure, or technology in veterinary medicine.

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Dental School-Specific Interview Questions

About Profession

47. Why do you want to be a Dentist?
48. What are your specific goals in dentistry? What do you intend to gain from a dental education?
49. Who inspired you to do dentistry?
50. What have you done to prepare yourself for this profession?
51. What qualities do you look for in a dentist?
52. Why choose medicine over some other career in health?
53. What are the negative aspects of dentistry from a professional standpoint?
54. What kind of stress do you see associated with this profession? And, how do you usually deal with stress?
55. Describe an interaction you have had with a patient that made an impact on you.
56. How do you think technology will impact the way we interact or assess patients in the future? OR How will innovation impact dentistry?
57. What is the biggest challenge that is facing the dental field today?
58. What recent journal article have you read from the field?
59. How do you imagine the balance of research and clinical work in your future?
60. How do you think the U.S. should address the dental access issues, particularly in rural areas?
61. If you had the power, what changes would you make to our health-care system?

Scenarios

62. Scenario: During clinical year, your supervising Dentist tells you to do something that you know is dead wrong; what do you do?
63. Scenario: you have been walking with an individual with chronic plaque. How would you encourage them to take better care of their teeth?
64. Scenario: You are a third year dental student and you overhear a current Dentist joking with a patient who made funny noises while under nitrous oxide gas. What do you do?
65. Scenario: You have the choice of giving free dental work to a successful elderly member of the community or a 20- year old drug addict, how do you choose?
66. Scenario: You are a second year dental student and you discover a classmate is cheating. What do you do?

About Dental School

67. What do you think will be the most difficult part of Dental School?
68. How many hours a week do you plan on studying?
69. What interests you most about our school?
70. What do you have to offer our school?
71. What will you do if you are not accepted to dental school this year?
72. Tell us your opinion of this dental school's curriculum.

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Physician Assistant School-Specific Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a PA?
2. What is your understanding of what PA's do?
3. What have you done to prepare yourself for this profession?
4. Why did you choose PA school over med school?
5. What kind of stress do you see associated with the PA profession? And, how do you usually deal with stress?
6. Describe an interaction you have had with a patient that made an impact on you.
7. Describe the most stressful work or academic situation you have been in, and tell us how you dealt with it.
8. How many hours a week do you plan on studying?
9. Scenario: Your supervising MD tells you to do something that you know is dead wrong; what do you do?
10. What would be your ideal job as a PA?

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Physical Therapy School-Specific Interview Questions

1. What made you decide to apply to our program?
2. There are many health related careers. Why do you want to become a PT?
3. What area of physical therapy have you experienced?
4. What strengths do you have that will enable you to become a successful Physical Therapist?
5. What courses do you feel have helped to prepare you in becoming a PT?
6. What kind of volunteer or shadowing experience do you have?
7. What did you learn from your PT shadowing experience?
8. Tell us about your experiences in working with a diverse group of people.
9. As a PT, what duties would you assign a PT assistant that you wouldn't an aide?
10. Suppose you walk into a hospital room to work with a patient and she refused because her favorite soap is on. What would you do?
11. What makes you think you'll be a good Physical Therapist?
12. In your opinion, describe the qualities of a great Physical Therapist.
13. What do you feel the greatest challenges are for Physical Therapists today?
14. How do you see healthcare evolving in the next 10 years?
15. How would you handle this situation? (ethical question)
16. What would you do if one of your classmates was cheating?
17. If you don't get into a PT program, what are your plans?

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Pharmacy School-Specific Interview Questions

1. Why do you want to be a pharmacist?
2. What will you do if you are not accepted to pharmacy school?
3. When did you first decide that you wanted to pursue pharmacy as a career? Was there a specific cause for your decision? Has anything happened since that time to strengthen or weaken your decision?
4. How are you going to decide which pharmacy school to attend?
5. What steps have you taken to find out more about pharmacy as a career?
6. What problems do you predict that pharmacy will face in the next decade?
7. Can you see other careers in which you could achieve the same goals or meet the same needs?
8. What characteristics does a good pharmacist possess?
9. What current event in pharmacy have you heard about or been following?
10. What are the advantages and limitations that you see going into pharmacy? (Be specific)
11. How do you plan to finance your pharmacy school education?
12. How are you going to decide which pharmacy school to attend?
13. What do you think of herbal/alternative medicine? Should people choose them over traditional medicine?
14. What do you think about the new recent Medicare changes?

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