



Interview Tips

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The Interview

- Final stretch
 - Third year is complete
 - Step I & II are behind you
 - Away rotations are done
 - Your personal statement is polished
 - Your ERAS application is submitted
- Now it's time to relax...



The Interview

- Make or break your chances of matching

The Interview

- Most important part of application process
 - 2018 NRMP Program Director survey
 - Top three criteria
 - Interactions with faculty during interview and visit
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Interactions with house staff during interview and visit


Fit

- The purpose of the interview is to assess fit.
 - Are you the right fit for the program?
 - Is the program the right fit for you?

Fit

- Are you the right fit for the program?
 - Behavioral & social skills
 - Predictor of resident performance
 - Member of the team
 - Program culture

Fit

- Is the program the right fit for you?
 - Know yourself
 - Qualities and skills
 - Expectations
 - Educational goals
 - Personal & professional goals
 - Residency
 - Program Director
 - Residents
 - Support
 - Environment
 - Geography
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Preparation

- Know yourself
 - Be comfortable telling your own story
 - Know your application
 - Why you chose your specialty

Preparation

- Practice your delivery
 - Pace, tone and body language
 - Mock interviews

Preparation

- Do your homework
 - Research programs
 - Program website
 - Contacts
 - Pre-interview materials provided
 - Know the history of your specialty
 - Pioneers in your field
 - Be knowledgeable of current events


Preparation

- Patient case
 - Present in less than a minute
 - Discuss the highlights
 - What did you learn?
 - How did you grow?

Preparation

- Common questions
 - “Tell me about yourself.”
 - “Why do you want to go into this specialty?”
 - “Why do you want to come to our program?”


Questions From Faculty

- How did you become interested in our program?
 - What are you looking for in a program?
 - Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?
 - Tell me about yourself.
 - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
 - What do you do with your spare time?
 - Tell me about your research.
 - Why should we take you over other candidates?
 - What are you looking for in a program?
 - Why did you choose medicine as a career?
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Preparation

- Develop questions
 - Program assessment
 - Interviewers may defer the interview to you
- Know your audience

Questions for Students to Ask Faculty

- Where do graduates end up?
 - Which geography and what types of jobs?
 - What program changes have been made in recent years?
 - What changes are anticipated in the near future?
 - What are some major research interests within the department?
 - What role do private physicians have in the residency?
 - What role do fellows have in the residency?
 - How percentage of time is devoted to lectures and other didactics?
 - How do your graduates do on specialty board exams?
 - What percent of residents go on to fellowships?
 - Do residents have any difficulty obtaining fellowships?
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Questions for Students to Ask Residents

- What is the best part of your residency?
 - Are you happy with your decision to come here?
 - Tell me about lectures, simulations, didactics, journal club.
 - Other requirements: research, administrative, built in moonlighting, etc?
 - What is the most frustrating part of your residency?
 - Do you operate with attendings on every case?
 - How is call? How much call?
 - How is the cost of living?
 - Electives experience? Can you do away electives?
 - Inpatient versus outpatient experiences?
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Scheduling the Interview

- Do not delay scheduling
- Top choice interviews
- Pace yourself
- Cost

Appearance

- Professionalism is paramount
 - Dress conservatively
 - Get a hair cut
 - Shave
 - Remove facial jewelry
 - Minimize or omit perfume
 - Short, well groomed nails

Preparation

- Do not check your luggage
- Wear or carry-on your suit

The Interview Day

- Format
 - Presentation by Program Director
 - Individual interviews
 - Hospital tour
 - Attend rounds
 - Lunch
- Reception
 - Highly recommend attending
 - Limit or abstain from alcohol, since these receptions are still part of the interview

The Interview Day

- Be prepared and organized
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Arrive early
- Silence your cell phone

Attitude

- Calm your nerves
 - Take a deep breath
 - You are a qualified applicant

Attitude

- Be cordial and respectful
 - The whole experience is an interview

The Interview Day

- Demonstrate enthusiasm
 - Show your interest
 - Remain positive and upbeat

The Interview Day

- Address weaknesses
 - Take ownership
 - Highlight strengths
 - Showcase your clinical problem solving abilities through your prepared patient cases

The Interview Day

- The illegal question
 - Match Code of Conduct
 - Age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, family status
 - Names of institutions applied to
 - Rank list preferences

After the Interview

- Keeping everything straight
 - Notes of pros & cons
 - Names of who you met
 - Business cards
 - Unique conversations, topics
 - Feelings you experienced

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