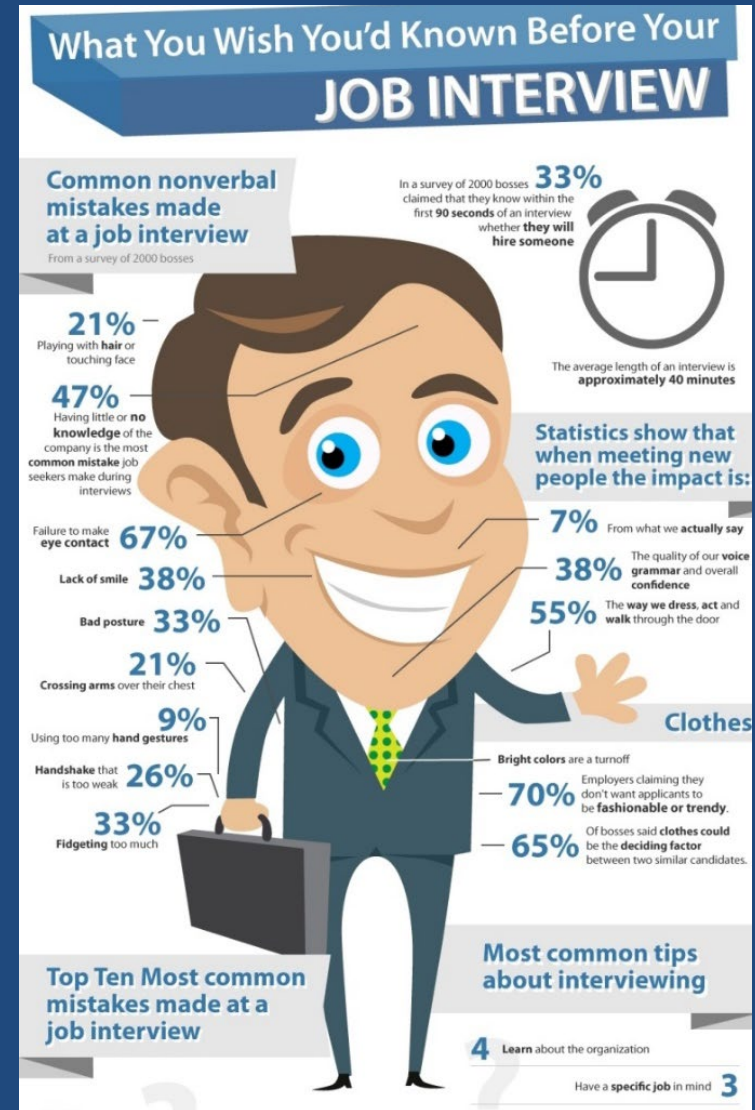


Mock Interviews

University of Arizona
College of Medicine - Phoenix

Dr. Lisa Shah-Patel
Dr. Lauren Fisher
Dr. David Guttman
Dr. Eric vanSonnenberg



Program Director Survey

- Top ranking criteria:
 - 96% Interactions with faculty during interview/visit
 - 95% Interpersonal skills
 - 91% Interactions with housestaff during interview/visit
 - 86% Feedback from current residents

Preparation

- Know yourself
 - Be comfortable telling your own story
 - Know your application
 - Why you chose your specialty
 - Qualities and skills you bring
 - Expectations, educational and professional goals

Preparation

- Do your homework
 - The more informed you are, the more insightful the questions you can ask during the interview
 - Research programs using their website, contacts, and pre-interview materials
 - Know the history of your specialty and pioneers in the field
 - Be knowledgeable of current events in your chosen specialty

Preparation

- Prepare to answer common questions
 - You'll impress interviewers if thoughtful, insightful, and concise responses roll off your tongue
 - “Tell me about yourself”
 - “Why do you want to go into this specialty?”
 - “Why do you want to come to our program?”

Preparation

- Prepare a list of questions
 - Develop questions that will help you collect the information you need to make a good decision
 - Interviewers may defer the direction of the interview to you; take the reins with confidence

Preparation

- Prepare a patient case
 - Particularly memorable, challenging or educational
 - If asked, present the patient in about 30s – 45s
 - Relate the highlights
 - Conclude with what you learned

The Interview Day

- Duration: 1/2 - full day
- Format:
 - Presentation by the program director
 - Opportunity to go on rounds
 - Hospital tour
 - Lunch (frequently with current residents)
 - Individual interviews with faculty and director
- Reception or other social outing

The Interview Day

- Wear comfortable shoes
- Arrive early
 - Nothing's more stressful than trying to find a parking spot, getting lost or stuck in traffic

The Interview Day

- Be cordial and respectful to everyone
 - The whole experience is an interview
 - Especially the evening social event
 - Interactions with the program coordinator
 - Even finding a parking space...

The Interview Day

- Be enthusiastic and show interest
 - If you have done your research and are truly interested, this should be easy
 - As you travel the interview trail, enthusiasm is frequently half the battle
 - Remain positive and upbeat

The Interview Day

- Commonly asked questions by Program Directors:
 - 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?

The Interview Day

- Good questions for students to ask PD/faculty:
 - Where do graduates end up: geographically and types of jobs?
 - What program changes have been made in recent years?
 - What changes are anticipated in the near future?
 - What are some of the major research interests within the department?
 - What role do private physicians have in the residency training process?
 - What role do fellows have in the residency training process?
 - What are the major strengths and weaknesses of the program?
 - 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? Which fellowships
 - Do residents have any difficulty landing the fellowship of their choice?

The Interview Day

- Good 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 the 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?

The Interview Day

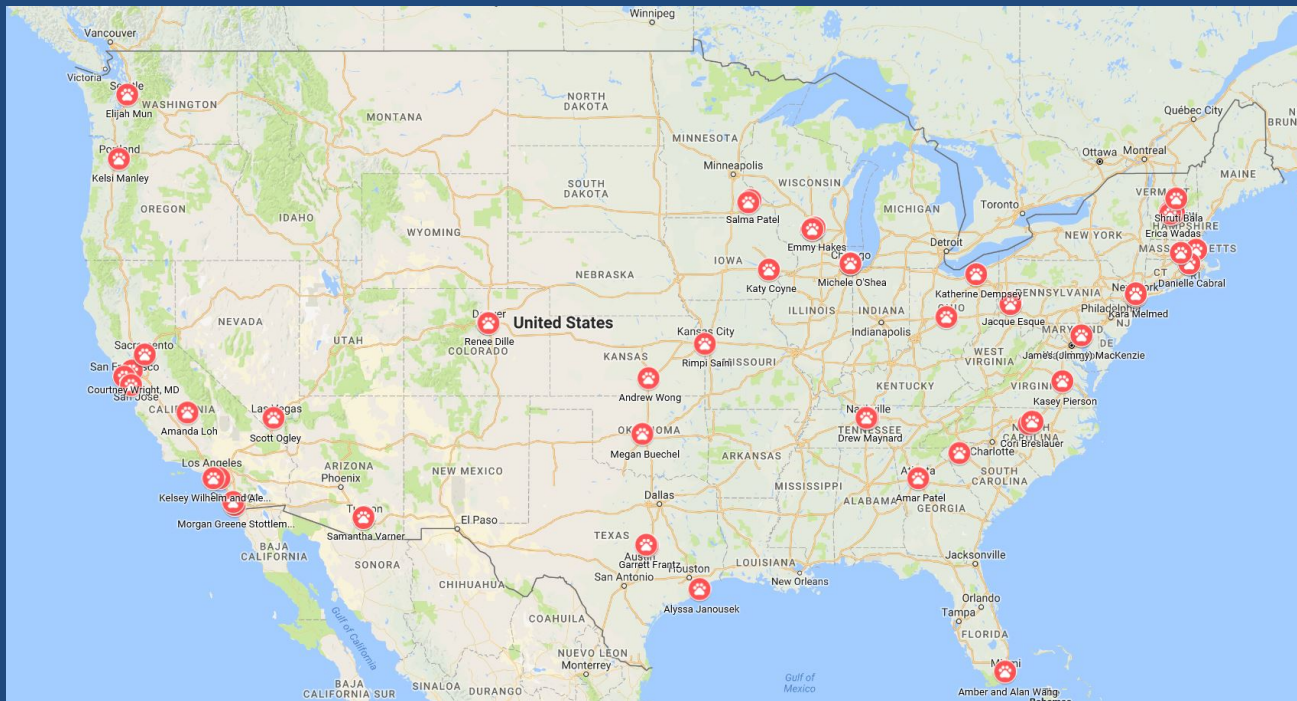
- Address weaknesses in your application
 - Control the conversation
 - Low board scores
 - Leave of absence
 - Delayed graduation
 - and then highlight your strengths
 - Showcase your clinical problem solving abilities
 - Talk about a particularly meaningful patient interaction
 - If you have questions about this, please contact your advisor.

After the Interview

- Keeping everything straight
 - Notes of pros & cons, who you met, *feelings* you had
 - Be honest with yourself and what you like and don't like
 - Is this a place where you will thrive?
 - Keep business cards and information packets
 - Write about common/personal things you talked about with PDs/interviewers
 - Great to have when doing thank you notes and jog interviewers memory of you

Resources

- Alumni Advisor List/Mentorship Program
- HOST program (Help Our Students Travel)
 - 100+ alumni willing to house students



Resources

- Airline Loyalty Card
- Smart trip planning for the UofA
 - <https://tool.thehotelsnearby.com/UACOM1>
- Puffin app ERAS accessibility via smartphone
- Consider family member or best friend access to email to accept interviews

Big Sib Program

- Who better to ask, someone who just went through it
- Answer questions/concerns and provide guidance to a third year medical student who will be soon starting the fourth year process
 - How do I sort through VSAS, ERAS, NRMP?
 - Provide firsthand experience
 - Provide guidance about the application process, LORs, VSAS and away rotation
- Sign up tonight!!!

Summary

- Be comfortable telling your story
- Show enthusiasm
- Remember, you're interviewing the program too
 - Which program is the best fit for you?
 - Where will you thrive?

Tonight

- 2 groups A and B
 - A heads to the doctoring suites on the 3rd floor
 - B stays here in B202 for the roundtable discussion
- Please listen to prompts for the interviewing component; have student wait outside and knock when prompt indicates
 - You may not be interviewed by someone in your specialty
 - Ask questions of your interviewer
- You will be prompted when the interview ends and the feedback portion should begin
 - Please utilize provided feedback forms

Thank you again to our volunteer faculty!!!