



# MSMP

## Medical Student Mentorship Program

### INTERVIEW HANDOUT

#### **Purpose of the interview:**

- Get to know the applicant on a personal level
- Allow applicant to demonstrate knowledge of the school/program or ask questions about the school/program
- Assess ability to answer ethical questions or questions about current medical issues
- Allow a chance for the applicant to talk about different aspects of his/her application or discuss aspects not listed on the application
- Allow applicant to defend weak areas of the application

#### **Possible Formats:**

- ONE ON ONE: What JABSOM uses and is the most common form
- Group Interviews or Panel Interviews

	MMI	1-1
Usage	Steadily increasing	Very Common
Types of questions	Pointed/targeted questions each with a specific task of assessing the candidate; goal is to ask a WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS	May be conversational (getting to know you) but also may involve scenario or ethical questions; goal is to ask questions to get a DEEPER UNDERSTANDING of the candidate/ to get to know the candidate personally
length	Multiple (~10) 5-10 minute stations	usually about 1 hr (varies by interviewer)
Evaluation	Scored by how you answer specific targeted questions at each station	Different methods of scoring, but each interviewer may rank you (dont recommend to strongly recommend) and make additional comments about you

#### **Interview Preparations:**

- Do your research on the school/program
- Review your ENTIRE application and personal statement
- Review current events and current issues in healthcare!
- Schedule your appointment/interview punctually and be flexible with your interview time
- Schedule flight/travel arrangements and temporary housing
- DO MOCK INTERVIEWS! However, Don't OVERPREP or OVER-REHEARSE!
- prioritize what you want to communicate before the interview
- keep in mind that you must try to be personable but still mention some key points of your application in a TIMELY manner (you may be limited to a 1/2hr to 1hr or just a few minutes with the MMI)

#### **Considerations for the day of the interview:**

- ARRIVE EARLY! (plan for traffic/travel)
- Dress Appropriately (Suit and Tie for men, Pantsuits or professional dress for ladies)
- Open well: greet with a handshake and a smile!
- Know how you will open (you will always be asked why medicine and "tell me about yourself")
- Remember to smile (when appropriate)! Also remember other body language (don't slouch, fidget, etc).
- Make good but appropriate eye contact
- DONT be long-winded, but remember to mention the key points you want conveyed
- Be personable
- Remember to thank the interviewer

## **After the interview**

- Send a thank you letter!
- Don't stress over how you did (it's done!)
- However, you should assess yourself and things you can do better in the next interview
- Remember to thank the interviewer

## **Sample Questions:**

- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- Tell me about yourself. Describe your personality.
- Why did you apply here? How did you decide to apply to our program?
- How are you a match for our medical school?
- What is your first-choice school? To what other schools are you applying?
- Why choose medicine over some other career in health (or other example career)?
- What field of medicine interests you most?
- What will you do if you fail to gain admission to medical school this year?
- Tell me about your research.
- What is your concentration? Why did you choose it?
- What courses (science/non-science) did you like the most?
- What can be done about rising health costs? What do you think of Hawaii's state insurance plans? About HMOs?
- How do you see the field of medicine changing in the next ten years? How do you see yourself fitting into those changes?
- What will you find most difficult about medical school? How will you handle that?
- What are your strong points? What are your weaknesses? How have you handled your weaknesses?
- What are three things you want to change about yourself?
- What has been your biggest failure and how did you handle it?
- Name something you are most proud of...
- How do you work under pressure or handle stress? Give an example.
- What have you done that shows initiative? What did you gain from that experience? How were you most/least satisfied with that endeavor?
- How do you respond to criticism? Describe a situation where your work was criticized. What was your immediate reaction to the situation?
- What are the negative aspects of being a doctor? What are the positives? Why do so many people want to become dr's?
- What do you think of government's involvement in health care? What do you think of our current healthcare system? What are your thoughts on Obamacare?
- What do you think about euthanasia? Convince me on patient assisted suicide. Argue against it.
- If you had to change anything about your education, what would you change?
- How would friends describe you? Your family?
- Describe yourself as a team player. Give an example of how you were able to work in a team situation.
- What do you think about physician-assisted suicide? Alternative medicine?
- Why should we choose you over all the other applicants? What have you done to acquaint yourself with what a Dr does?
- What do you think is the most important quality a physician should have?
- Are you interested in research? How do you imagine the balance of research and clinical work in your future?
- What is the reason for your poor grades in \_\_\_\_\_ year?
- What last bit of information would you like me to know about you?
- Any questions? Any questions about our school or program?
- What do you hope to gain during your medical education?
- What would your best friend say about you in convincing me I should admit you to our medical school?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- Do you have any mentors or role models? Which family member has influenced your life so far and why?
- How is your relationship with your family?
- Name a meaningful experience you've had and how it shaped you to pursue work as a physician.
- What was most challenging about \_\_\_\_\_ (a certain experience, job, etc)
- If you couldn't ever be trained to be a physician, what would you be?
- Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- What interests you outside of medicine and getting into medical school?
- What do you think will be most challenging about medical school?
- What do you think about \_\_\_\_\_ (current event)
- How do you plan to pay for medical school?
- Describe a book you've recently read for fun.
- What if 2 years later, you decide that medicine is not for you?
- What do you think about practicing in rural communities?
- How do you handle group conflict?
- How would you break news to a family or patient that he or she has a terminal illness?
- If you catch a friend cheating on a test what do you do?
- You see a student going 10 seconds over the time limit on a national board exam. As a professor, what action do you take? As a student?
- You are taking a much needed break after a long shift during your residency years. You lie down in bed, but an attending bursts in telling you that you are lying in HIS bed and that you need to get out. What do you do?
- How do you think your role as a physician fits in with your role in the community? What role do doctors play in the community?
- Be ready for stress testing including:
  - Someone telling you that they don't like your shirt
  - Being in a room with very stoic interviewers, asking giving you ethical scenarios (some given above, but in general, these are hard to predict)
  - An interviewer "falling asleep" on you
  - Other tests designed to see how you cope with stress or difficult scenarios