

## DR. MOSS' MED SCHOOL INTERVIEW ADVICE [just my opinions!]

In general, the most important advice is: Prepare [as described below] in advance. Then at the actual interview, forget everything. Just try to relax and have a conversation [with a few caveats; see below].

There is no way you can anticipate every question you might be asked. And you shouldn't try. The interview is more about how you handle yourself, and how you communicate. All interviewers are trying to learn more about you, and most of them will be welcoming. In some cases, the interviewer is trying to "test" you and may ask you about ethical dilemmas, or even become a bit confrontational.

Again, try to relax and be yourself. Don't attempt to answer the question the way you think the interviewer wants you to. If you believe something, be prepared to back up your position. For instance, if you oppose stem cell research, be able to tell them why.

You can read what other students have said about interviews at each medical school at: <http://more.studentdoctor.net/schoollist.php?type=2> You can find a list of questions on this site too. But DON'T try to memorize answers that you should use; it will sound too "canned". Just read over the questions to make sure there are none that would completely "stump" you.

Here are some other notes about PREPARATION:

1. Read a national newspaper or news magazine twice a week, for at least 6 months before your interview. Read every story that relates to medicine, health care policy, health care finance, new discoveries, etc.

2. Be comfortable with a story that shows why you are "special"... Some experience you had with medicine, or something/someone that inspired you, etc. What separates you out from many other applicants and says, "Hey, this guy/girl is gonna make a great doctor!" Some possibilities:

- Have you done some unusual travel; studied abroad; or participated in a medical mission trip? If so, was there a particularly moving or memorable experience, related to health care, that might have inspired you?

- Is there something in your life that shows true leadership?

- Have you dealt with a difficult family situation or illness, beyond what most applicants might have experienced? Showing that you have experienced serious adversity, and overcome, can set you apart.

- Was there a particular physician, or a particular patient, who really inspired you to want to help people in medicine? What about that case or person moved you?

3. Be prepared to speak with confidence. For you to make your interviewer believe that you belong in medical school, you have to believe it too!

4. It is helpful to know a bit about the school you are interviewing at. Do a little research into the school's strengths in basic and clinical research. Have 2-3 questions about that particular medical program ready to ask at the end of the interview.

5. Review the essays you have written for the AMCAS and on your supplementary application. In some cases, the interviewer may ask questions relating to these essays.

6. Have a mock interview. You should arrange one or more of these prior to your formal interviews. Most of the biology and chemistry faculty have experience with these, but do check with your advisor in the biology or chemistry department first.

## THE ACTUAL INTERVIEW:

1. Dress professionally. Bring along a portfolio or notebook. Have it open, and if the interviewer says something you're truly interested in having down, jot it down. It shows you're interested.
2. Be confident. Be respectful. It's FINE to disagree; don't argue.
3. The key to the interview is to relax, and have a conversation. Imagine you're sitting down with one of your Wofford professors. Not a best friend; you don't want to be that casual. But not imagining you're talking to someone who has your future in his/her hands either! I think one of your professors would be just right!
4. DON'T worry about what you said; don't try to anticipate what you think the interviewer wants to hear! I can just imagine you using "uh.." once and wincing, saying to yourself "SHIT, Prof. Powers said I shouldn't do that"; or "DAMN, what was I supposed to say here?" or "ugggh... that was stupid!" These are all bound to make you more uptight, and that's when the problems begin. Instead, just SIT ACROSS THE DESK FROM YOUR WOFFORD PROFESSOR, and have a conversation. If a tough question is asked and you don't know where to go with it, perhaps the two words I've suggested you bring in might help. Or not. If not, just take your time and do your best. The goal is for the interviewer to get to know you, NOT to see if you give all the "right" answers.