



5 ESSENTIAL TIPS TO ACE YOUR MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

Admissions boards place substantial weight on interview results when making final enrollment decisions. Your background, GPA and MCAT's will only determine if you get an interview. However, If you fumble the interview, your odds of being rejected are high. A strong interview and solid credentials, will allow you to distinguish yourself from other applicants and substantially increase your odds of acceptance.

Follow these 5 essential tips to ace your medical school interview:





MAKE THE BEST FIRST IMPRESSION

- **Be professional and respectful** to ‘everyone’ you encounter onsite or by phone prior to your interview. Applicants mistakenly lower their guard while interacting with administrative staff or others who are not part of the selection team. However, a poor interaction with anyone could be communicated to the admissions board; so always be on your game.
- **Arrive un-encumbered.** Don’t arrive with a backpack, lots of bags or cloths (e.g. hats, gloves, etc.). Bring a leather bound portfolio, one bag for woman, a blank pad, quality pen, 5 copies of your resume and ‘clean’ copies of requested documents. You’re first impression will be ruined if you are fumbling for important items or appear disheveled or disorganized.
- First impressions begin **the moment they see you**; make sure you appear sharp, alert, polished, and with **good posture**. **Greet the interviewer** with confidence, a warm smile, strong handshake, good eye contact, and a friendly upbeat demeanor. Let your personality shine.
- **TURN OFF YOUR PHONE** before you arrive. Nothing will kill your first impression more than using your phone while someone is reaching to shake your hand.
- **Learn to make small talk.** This is an often overlooked but important skill while making the best first impression. It’s ‘small talk’ so keep it brief, natural, and topical (e.g. the weather, office environment, current events etc.)



SELL YOURSELF

- Selling yourself means persuading the admissions board that you have the qualifications that are required for acceptance. You can only do this by knowing what those qualifications are. Most notably they include:
 - Choosing their school for the right reasons
 - Superior academic performance, including; quality internships, and results on research reports and group assignments
 - Well rounded backgrounds, including; extracurricular activities, community service, and some exposure to healthcare
 - Students who have chosen a career in medicine for the right reasons
 - High level emotional intelligence, including; interpersonal skills, empathy, confidence, ambition, integrity, communication skills, problem solving capabilities, ability to multitask, competence under pressure, and resourcefulness
- Project confidence and reduce anxiety by replacing negative thoughts and self-doubt with positive thoughts and belief in yourself.
- Complete a **self assessment** by making a list of your qualifications and personal attributes. Ask people you trust for feedback. Perform an exercise of **self affirmations** by repeating the items on your list until they're absorbed into your mind and identity.
- During your interview, use **powerful and persuasive words** while responding to questions. For example, replace "I enjoy" organic chemistry with I've 'excelled' at organic chemistry. Replace I would "like" to be a physician with I'm "passionate" about being a physician.



BE PREPARED FOR THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, INCLUDING:

Interview questions fall into several broad categories, which include:

- A) **General questions**, such as:
 1. Tell us about yourself, including your academic experience, internships, extracurricular activities, and outside interests
 2. Why do you want to be a doctor?
 3. Where do you see yourself 5 years after graduating?
- B) **Behavioral questions**, such as:
 1. Provide an example of when you needed to perform under pressure
 2. Describe a time when you needed to be resourceful to solve a problem
 3. Tell us about a setback in your life and how did you handle it
- C) **Situational questions** that are hypothetical problems or scenarios, such as:
 1. How would you handle conflicting priorities?
 2. What would you do if a teammate on a project was not contributing?
 3. How would you help someone who was under duress
- D) **Healthcare related questions**, such as:
 1. What speciality are you interested in and why
 2. Are you interested in pursuing a clinical or academic career
 3. What does it take to be the best of the best physician



ASK GREAT QUESTIONS

- The best questions are 'spontaneous', related to what was said to you during the interview. Prepared questions are good as 'backup' if there is no opportunity to ask spontaneous questions.
- Don't ask questions where you should know the answer through proper research
- Ask questions where you have a genuine, useful purpose for the answer. Asking questions just to impress, will work against you. Examples of good prepared questions, include:
 - What is the school's percentage mix of learning through lectures, research, group projects, practical training, and internships
 - Are there any changes expected to the program over the next few years
 - Are there opportunities for community service
- Never run out of questions. If you're out of time you could say "do you have time for one more question?", or "I have other questions but I see we're out of time, I'm sure I'll have a chance to ask them at a future time."

BE PREPARED

- Research the school correctly to determine: unique features such as specialties, progressive learning methods, culture, credentials of faculty, acclaimed research results, prominent alumni, etc.
- Thoroughly revisit your own credentials, and background so that you don't struggle to recall details about your distant past
- Dress properly. Your appearance will boost your confidence and demonstrate your attention to detail and organization. Wear conservative clothes that fit properly, with dark colors, and modern styles. Avoid overbearing perfumes or flashy jewelry.
- Be current on professional reading and the latest news on medical/healthcare issues
- Research the backgrounds of each interview team member.
- The most important aspect of your preparation is **PRACTICE**. Since Interviewing is a skill, it takes practice to perfect. The more you practice the better you will perform. Doing this effectively requires you to engage in mock interviews, receive accurate feedback and expert interview coaching from an experienced coach.

WANT MORE HELP? HIRE AN EXPERT INTERVIEW COACH



The only interview coaching service that provides **BOTH** *video coaching* **and** *in-person coaching* at our NYC location.



He has **extensive interview coaching experience**. Barry has provided interview coaching to hundreds of medical school applicants over many years. He knows the requirements of medical school boards and has collected an exhaustive list of the actual interview questions that were asked of medical school applicants.

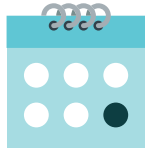


Customized coaching - Coaching with Barry is personalized and targeted to your individual needs and learning curve. He will work with you on 'what' you say (your script), and 'how' you say it (your body language, confidence, communication skills, etc.)



He gets results! Every medical school applicant that has trained with Barry, has received an acceptance by one or multiple medical school.

**WANT TO GET AN EDGE
OVER THE CROWD?**



Schedule a Free Consultation with
The Expert Interview Coach -
Barry Drexler at 212-461-0744

