

## INTERVIEWS

Most professional school admission committees interview applicants. These interviews are given at that school or occasionally at the applicant's college by representatives of the school who live in the area. Although medical schools tend to limit interviews to those they believe have a reasonable chance for admission, they generally try to meet requests for interviews, particularly if the student is going to be in that geographic area of the country. It does not hurt to write a request for an interview at such a time.

The purpose of the interview is to elaborate upon the information already provided in the application and test materials, to provide an opportunity for the interviewer to round out an overall impression of the applicant, and to provide the student the opportunity to explain in person unique or complicated aspects of his or her premedical endeavors. During an interview, an applicant should be natural, be knowledgeable about the medical school at which he/she is being interviewed, be prepared to answer sociological questions and be able to explain why he/she wants to become a physician or dentist. If an applicant doesn't know the answer to a question, he/she should say so and explain his/her deficiencies honestly, if asked about them. An applicant should not be afraid to ask questions, and, of course, should be appropriately dressed and groomed.

Below is an interview rating form actually used by one of the medical schools. While all schools probably don't have such structured interviews, the form indicates what interviewers are observing:

1. **Physical Bearing** – pride in self, appearance, neatness, grooming, confidence
2. **Communication Skills** – ability to express ideas and opinions, responses to questions, verbal facility.
3. **Personality Characteristics** – friendliness, charm, ability to relate
4. **Motivation** – derivation and strength of desire for medical career, career perspectives and goal, basis for motivation
5. **Maturity** – appropriate maturity for age, ability to handle responsibilities of medicine.
6. **Interests** – has anything ever “turned on the applicant” – activities, social service, athletic, recreational, music, research interests, hobby, reading
7. **Concern Index** – compassion, desire to help people, empathy
8. **Emotional Stability** – composure, ability to relax after initial tenseness
- 9-10. **Gut Reaction** – I like him/her, overall impression, subjective feeling about applicant

Each of the ten items is rated as “outstanding,” “very acceptable,” “acceptable,” and “not acceptable.”