

SAMPLE QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKED

These questions are designed to get you thinking. Do not try to prepare a detailed answer to each one of them. But be prepared to talk about some of these topics

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What three adjectives best describe you.
3. What are your team-player/leadership qualities?
4. What might give me a better picture of you than I can get from your resume?
5. Of which accomplishments are you most proud?
6. Tell me about your family.
7. What was the most important event in your life?
8. What shaped you and got you to where you are today?
9. What was the most difficult thing you have ever done?
10. How would your best friend describe you? What negative things would they say?
11. What one thing do you want conveyed about yourself to the admissions committee?
12. What do you think we should look for in applicants?
13. Why do you want to study medicine?
14. Why did you choose this profession over some other career in health care?
Dentistry? Public Health?
15. Within the profession, what field interests you most?
16. How did you first become interested in medicine?
17. How have you tested your motivation for this career?
18. What do you see yourself doing in ten years?
19. What will you do if you fail to gain admission to medical school this year? Will you reapply? How will you spend the interim year?
20. Why were your MCAT scores so low?
21. What other schools have you applied to? Have you been accepted anywhere?
Where would you like to go?
22. Why is this medical school of interest to you? How would you choose it over another?
23. What do you dislike about medicine?
24. Why did you choose to attend Columbia?
25. How many hours a day do you study?
26. How do you spend your time outside of the classroom?
27. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
28. How well do you take criticism? Give me an example of a time you were criticized and how you reacted.
29. If you could change one thing about your personality what would it be?
30. If you could be any cell in the human body which would you choose to be and why?
31. Which is more important, the ability to organize, structure and prioritize, or the ability to be flexible, modify, change and make do as needed?
32. Which is more important knowledge or imagination?
33. If your house were burning, what three objects would you save
34. What kinds of people are your friends?
35. If you could dine with anyone from the past, present or future who would it be and why?
36. What is the last book you read?
37. What do success and failure mean to you?

38. What physician characteristics do you admire most? Least?
39. What do you do for fun?
40. Where have you traveled and why?
41. What have you contributed to groups and activities in which you participated?
42. What have you learned from your volunteer work?
43. How did you choose your major?
44. What would you find most difficult to deal with if you were a patient?
45. If you could not be a physician what career would you choose?
46. You seem really interested in research, why do you want a medical degree?
47. Can you discuss the details of the research project that you have been involved with?
48. How do you make important decisions?
49. What non-science college courses interested you the most?
50. Which undergraduate course would you recommend that all students take?
51. If you could begin your schooling again what would you change?
52. Have you ever dropped a class? Why?
53. How do you study best?
54. Can you explain your low grades in Organic Chemistry?
55. Have you always done the best work of which you are capable?
56. What have been your biggest failures in life?
57. What have you done to ensure that these failures won't happen again?
58. Which types of people do you have trouble working with?
59. Do you like to work autonomously or in groups?
60. How do you normally handle conflict? Give me an example.
61. What was the most useful criticism you ever received? Why?
62. What do you think you will contribute to the medical profession or to your community as a physician?
63. What would you want your patients to say about you?
64. The future of medicine looks bleak. Why do you think so many people are still pursuing a medical career?
65. How did your family life contribute to your decision to become a physician?
66. How did you select this school and why do you want to attend?
67. How would you reform health care in America?
68. Do you think physicians make too much money? Why or Why not?
69. Who is the Surgeon General and what do you know about him/her?
70. You just delivered a baby that appears to have Down's syndrome. The child is having problems breathing and needs to have a simple operation to take care of the problem. If the child does not have the surgery, it will die. The parents ask you not to save the child's life. What do you do?
71. What do you think is causing American's fascination with alternative medicine?
72. Discuss a medical ethics issue and take a position.
73. If you saw a fellow medical student cheating on an exam what would you do?
74. Outside of your family, who is your biggest role model?
75. How do you define healthy?
76. How will you finance your medical school?
77. How do you handle stress?
78. How do you function under pressure?
79. Do you have a support system? Who are they?

80. Tell me about the patient from whom you learned the most.
81. Can you think of anything else that you would like to add?
82. You are in private practice with a partner and you come to realize that this person has a substance abuse problem, what do you do?
83. What should we do with the uninsured or underinsured?
84. What is your opinion on putting caps on malpractice settlements?
85. Do you think that doctors have a right to strike?
86. How would you deal with a patient who disagreed with what you recommended?
87. What is the difference between a job and a career?
88. If you 've taken a year off, what did you get out of this year?
89. Who are your role models in medicine?
90. If I were to ask your parents what your 3 best and 3 worst qualities were what would they say?
91. What's your learning style?
92. What are the important issues in the upcoming presidential election?
93. You are writing a play called "The Best Physician." The cast includes the patient and the physician. Describe the play and the audience's reaction.
94. What do you think about the malpractice debate?
95. What is your opinion on stem cell research?
96. Why do you want to come to school here?
97. If you were the dean of a medical school, what one course would you want to have included in the curriculum?
98. Have you had any experience working with disadvantaged people?
99. What's your favorite neighborhood in New York and why?
100. Describe your perfect or ideal day.