

Big List of All Med School Interview Questions Part 1: Panel/Traditional Interview

This collection/guide contains arguably the largest number of traditional interview questions in a single document—but what separates this from the others is the meticulous(?) organization and the wide variety of questions thoroughly categorized. A great deal of time has been spent into searching for questions, checking for redundancies, categorizing, as well as finding and writing guides to answers (will come later). It is my hope that readers of my blog & applicants and especially those who really need interview practice will find this useful.

1. Personal Questions

1.1 Personal History

1. Tell me about yourself/your family/where you grew up (Don't give a complete life history. Summarize the key points in a chronological manner and sprinkle with few details in your more recent history.)
2. What are the best and worst things that ever happened to you?
3. Have you ever lived in a large city before?
4. What is the most significant award you've won?
5. Describe a typical day from your elementary school days.
6. What do you like to do on a Friday or Saturday night?
7. Tell me about a creative project you've done.
8. What has been your biggest failure and how did you handle it?
9. What is a goal you have failed in / Talk about a failure in your life.
10. Talk about an accomplishment that you are particularly proud of / your greatest accomplishment.
11. What contribution have you made to the community that you are most proud of?
12. What have you learned from your failures? Give examples.
13. What have you done that shows initiative? What did you gain from that experience? How were you most/least satisfied with that endeavor?
14. Which family member has influenced your life so far and why?
15. Tell me about your volunteer work.
16. Tell me about your family.
17. Tell me about your childhood.
18. Tell me something about your home life.
19. What is the biggest thing you have overcome in your life?
20. Describe a situation where your work was criticized. What was your immediate reaction? Reflecting back now, what do you make of it now?
21. What aspects of your life's experiences do you think make you a good candidate for medical school?
22. How do you think your personal background will affect your practice?
23. Describe any travels that you have undertaken and exposure to other cultures than your own, if any.
24. What is the most important event that has occurred to you in the last five years?
25. Describe the most unusual event in your life.
26. What is going on in your life?
27. Name something you are most proud of.
28. Describe your childhood and present living conditions
29. Tell me about your research.

30. What have you done that shows initiative? What did you learn from that experience?
31. What leadership positions have you held in school?

1.2 Personal Details

1. What are your 3 favorite movies?
2. What do you like to do in your spare time?
3. What are your hobbies?
4. How do you manage your time?
5. How do you deal with stress?
6. What is your learning style?
7. If your schedule was cleared for one day, what would you do to pass the time?
8. What do you like to do in your spare time? For fun? To relax?
9. Name 3 things that are most important to you
10. What book(s) have you read lately? How did they affect you personally?
11. You mentioned you participated in musical activities; how has music developed skills you will use in medicine?
12. How do you deal with adversity?
13. Are you a leader or a follower? Why?
14. Who has been your greatest influence to go into medicine / Who is your role model in health care?
15. Who is your hero and why? Who are your role models?
16. What can you tell us about yourself that is not on the autobiographical sketch?
17. Who has been the most influential in your life? How? What has been the effect?
18. What does the word "success" mean to you?
32. What newspapers, journals, etc., do you read on a regular basis?
33. How do you handle blood and gore?
34. Is there a good deal of drug use at your school? Possible follow up: Have you taken drugs?
35. Which languages do you speak? Why?
36. What makes you happy?
37. What causes your greatest frustrations in life?
38. What are your hobbies? Do you plan to continue your hobbies while in medical school?
39. What other interests do you have? Like answering all other questions, you want to be concise and specific. Discuss two or three hobbies; you may want to ask the interviewer about his hobbies. Be prepared to defend yourself if you are asked about your time commitment to these hobbies vs. your studies! Always keep in mind that your studies come first.
40. Do you plan to continue your hobbies through medical school?
41. Tell me about something that you know a lot about? --this could be a hobby or anything you feel like you are an expert in. You can discuss making a web page for children with cerebral palsy. Don't forget that you want to be concise. Talk for a few min minutes and pause to see the interviewer's reaction (this holds true for all the answers!)
42. What are you passionate about?
43. Do you have family members who are doctors? What do they think of the field?
44. How has their lives changed over the past few years with the changes in medicine?
45. Do you want to follow in their footsteps? (be careful with this one. This question may be a disguised way to ask you "what specialty you are interested in?") In answering this type of questions, you should keep in mind that many medical schools are having a push towards

primary care. This does not mean that you should be dishonest and lie about what you want to do. Always say the truth. If you are uncertain about what you will want to do, say the truth: I am not certain which field of medicine I will be best suited for; I hope to find the answer during my clinical rotations!)

1.3 Relationships/Interactions with Others

1. What is your relationship with your family?
2. Tell me about your family. How do they feel about your decision to attend medical school?
3. When you need counseling for personal problems, whom do you talk with?
4. What role have your parents played in your decision to become a physician?
5. What do you believe in?
6. What do you care about? How does that caring express itself?
7. Who was the best teacher you have had and why?
8. Who do you admire most in your life and why?
9. What type of people do you get along with well? --good physicians have to be able to work with all types of personalities throughout their training. As residents, you need to depend on other residents to get many tasks accomplished. As surgeons, you depend on your scrub nurse and assistants. In general, you like to convey that you get along with most people well. To show that you are hardworking (hopefully one of your pre-planned strong points), you may discuss that working with people that do not give their best effort may be difficult. You should, however, add that you have been successful in working with these types of people (by putting forth more effort on your side)! This is what I honestly felt when I was asked this question; think of something similar for yourself.
10. Is there something about you that would make it difficult to get along with you?
11. Who do you admire the most in your life? If you could chose one figure in history to have 24. dinner with, who would it be? --family members (like your dad) would be an easy way to go. Describing his good qualities and comparing them to your own qualities is yet another opportunity to sell yourself. Use these opportunities as the interviewer may not ask you about your strengths and weaknesses.
12. Describe your style of communicating and interacting with others?
13. How do you work in a group/what do you contribute to a group situation?

1.4 Personality & Character

1. What makes you special?
2. What are your 3 best points?
3. What are your 3 weakest points?
4. What are some things that bother you in a work setting?
5. How do you cope with grief?
6. What are your positive and negative qualities? (Pick one or two of your strengths and at least one of your weaknesses, but be sure you pick a weakness that you have recognized earlier, have improved upon, and indicate how you have done so.)
7. What would your friends/family say are your strengths / weaknesses?
8. Describe your personality.
9. Are you a friendly person?
10. What do you have to offer that others don't have?
11. How will your weaknesses play a role in medicine?

12. If your best friends were to describe you, what would they say?
13. What are three things you want to change about yourself?
14. How do you handle change?
15. How do you go about making important decisions?
16. If you could change one aspect of your personality with a snap of your fingers, what would you change?
17. How would your teammates describe you? How would your professors describe you?
18. What is the greatest obstacle you have had to overcome?
19. What was the last movie you saw? What did you think about it?
20. Have you always put forth your best effort in every situation? --you need to balance being modest with guaranteeing that you will do your best at all times in medical school.
21. What would you do on a perfect day?
22. What interests you outside of medicine and getting into medical school?

1.5 Behavioral/Situational

1. How do you work under pressure? Give an example.
2. How do you respond to criticism? Describe a situation where your work was criticized. What was your immediate reaction to the situation?
3. How do you deal with adversity?
4. Give me an example of how you will handle a stressful situation.
5. How do you deal with a patient who treats you badly?
6. Your supervising physician comes to work drunk, what do you do?
7. How might you calm a nervous patient?
8. Give a specific medical scenario, how would you treat the patient?
9. Your patient is terminally ill, looks at you with hope, what do you tell him?
10. If my grandmother walked into your practice and told you that she was ill because she had a hex placed on her, what would you tell her and how?
11. How would you tell a patient that they had a lump in their throat but you couldn't treat them for three months?
12. How would you tell a patient just diagnosed with cancer that he has only a few weeks to live?
13. How would you tell your patient that he has cancer?-- this is one of the most difficult aspects of bedside manners. You need to show your compassionate side with this question.
14. How would you deal with the death of a patient?
15. How might you deal with a terminally ill patient?
16. Describe how you can effectively deal with some in a crisis.
17. How would you express your concern for a child who needs an amputation?
18. You are given the following scenario: Attending says don't bother him unless it is an absolute necessity. At 3 am, nurse calls you and says patient is showing signs of infection and needs antibiotics. She has written up the order and asks if you would please authorize it. The patient is allergic and rapidly dies of anaphylaxis. What are you going to tell the parents?
19. You are playing tennis with your best friend and the ball hits your friend in the eye. What do you do?
20. If you are held up at gunpoint with your wife (mom, etc.), what would you do?
21. If your friend broke the law, what would you do?

22. What would you do if your pager went off as you were going out the door to your daughter's high school event because someone was sick or you forgot that you were on call?
23. The night before your final exam, your father has a heart-attack and is admitted to a hospital, what do you do?
24. If you had a conflict with a fellow classmate on a group project, how would you resolve it if the project was due the next day and you were not nearly finished?

1.6 Personal Experiences: collaboration/teamwork/leadership

1. Describe a time in your life you disagreed with a person of authority, ex. a professor, and how you dealt with it.
2. Describe a conflict that has arisen in a job, volunteer experience, etc, and how you dealt with it.
3. With examples, explain how you handle conflict with a fellow team member? What about conflict with a supervisor?
4. Describe your style of communicating and interacting with others. Give an example of a situation in which you had to utilize effective interpersonal skills.
5. Describe a situation in which you were dependable or demonstrated initiative. One in which you were not as dependable as you would have liked.
6. Tell me about a time when you demonstrated initiative.
7. Tell me about a time when you faced conflict or anger with another individual.
8. Tell me about the last time you felt anger on the job.
9. Tell me about a time when you've been disappointed in a teammate or fellow group member. What happened? How did you approach the situation?
10. Describe a situation in which you were the leader and what you learnt from the experience.
11. Give an example of a leadership role you have assumed.
12. Describe a situation in which you have worked with a diverse group of people. What did you learn from that situation?
13. Give evidence that you relate well with others.
14. In your present living situation, how do you settle disputes with your roommates?
15. Describe an experience you had helping others.

1.7 Personal Experiences: character

1. Describe a situation where you felt like a fish out of water.
2. What is the biggest thing you have overcome in life?
3. How do you cope with grief?
4. Discuss a book you have recently read for pleasure. Why does this book interest you?
5. Describe a time when you were faced with a difficult situation and how you dealt with it.
6. Tell us about a time in your life that you had no control over. How did you deal with it? What did you learn from it?
7. Can you think of a time that you made a mistake but it ended up working out better because of it?
8. Have you ever been forced to do something that has conflicted with your personal values?
9. Talk about a time when you had to follow a policy you agreed with.
10. Describe a time in your life when you had to stand up for something you believed in against your peers.
11. Tell me about a time when you were criticized unfairly.

12. Tell me about a time when you failed.
13. Describe an experience you have had in which you were misjudged. What were your responses?
14. How well do you feel you function under pressure?
15. What was the most stressful event in your life? How did you handle it?

1.8 Goals & Plans

1. What will you do if you aren't accepted to medical school?
2. What are your career plans and what led you to these decisions?
3. If you couldn't ever be trained to be a physician, what would you be?
4. How will you deal with the stress of school and this profession?
5. How do you plan to pay for medical school and living expenses?
6. What would you do if you were accepted to medical school but had to wait one year before entry/What would you do with a free year?
7. What would you do if you do not get into medical school this year?- You need to convey that you will not give up. You will find out how you can improve your application and apply again. You may want to do an extra year of research, get your master or Ph.D. degrees, etc.
8. What do you think you will struggle with during medical school?
9. How do you plan to support yourself through medical school?
10. What do you hope to gain during your medical education?
11. What do you see yourself doing in ten or fifteen years from now? (Include personal goals and professional goals. You may specify a general area of interest but qualify your specific interests in medical specialties by acknowledging you have yet to experience the range of opportunities in medicine. Do indicate your interests in the general environment where you intend to practice, such as small town, large city, and region of the country. This question encompasses the next two more specific questions.)
12. Where do you see yourself in 15 years? (what specialty will you be in/ where do you plan to practice) are all the same questions! This is when having done all the reading and research about the school becomes very handy. Discuss the excellent research programs, their early clinical training, the pass fail system, etc
13. What are your specific goals in medicine?
14. What are your goals in medicine? (Answer this one in a similar fashion to why you want to be a doctor)
15. Where else are you applying?
16. What would you do if you got in everywhere and what would you do if you got in nowhere?
17. If admitted, what would you bring to [the school at which you are interviewing]?
18. Would you consider working in a small/rural community?
19. What would you or your family miss about urban life if you worked in a rural area?
20. What kind of physician do you want to be?
21. Would you like academic medicine as a career?
22. Do you prefer the idea of basic research or of working with people?
23. How will you keep in touch with community needs?
24. What impact do you want to have on the medical profession?
25. Which primary care area of medicine would be the greatest interest to you?
26. Who was your greatest source of inspiration in deciding to pursue medicine?
27. How did you go about investigating a career in medicine?
28. Which field of medicine are you interested in? (Again, keep in mind that many schools have been pressured into graduating more students interested in primary care specialties!)

29. Where do you plan to practice? (If you are a foreign student, stating that you want to return to your country will unquestionably count against you. The state/federal government (depending on the school you are applying to) is partly funding your medical education. Certain programs will prefer to train physicians who will work in the undeserved areas of the country)
30. You have lived in Canada for the past 20 years; why would you consider moving to US now for medical school?

2. Application Related

2.1 Knowledge of Program/Specific motivations

1. What do you know about our school and program?
2. What makes (the program you are applying to) unique?
3. Are you a strong candidate for our program?
4. Are you a good fit for our program? How are you a match for our medical school? Explain.
5. Tell me about why you are interested in this program.
6. What scares you the most about our medical school?
7. Why this medical school? Why would you choose us over another medical school?
8. Why do you want to come here? (Be sure to have reasons that involve the unique qualities of the school. Mention also some personal reasons if these are applicable.)
9. What would you like us to tell you about our medical school?
10. Is there anything about our medical program that impresses you? Anything that concerns you?
11. Where do we stand in your list of medical school preferences?
12. Tell us your opinion of this medical school's curriculum.
13. Tell me about your letters of recommendation.

2.2 Motivation/Commitment for Medicine

1. Why do you want to be a doctor? (Give several key points in summary form). Replace very general responses like "I want to help people" with more specific intentions.
2. Why not nursing?
3. Did anyone you know influence your choice of career?
4. Why would you be a good doctor?
5. Why are you better for medicine than for another healthcare profession?
6. What is your choice of specialty? Why?
7. Why did you choose to apply to medical school?
8. Have you been accepted to other schools yet?
9. I heard you were only going into medicine for the money.
10. What is your first choice?
11. Why didn't you go into social work if you like working with people?
12. If I'm to talk to the Admissions Committee tomorrow, why should I tell them to let you in?
13. What's your "cause"?
14. Why study medicine when you have so many talents?
15. Why should we choose you? Discuss your strengths. Relate your strengths to those of the 2. program. **Sample:** "I love doing research. I was involved with qtl analysis of osteosarcomas, and I can see that your institution is interested in genetics of cancer development."
16. Would you go to our program if I gave you an acceptance letter now? **Sample:** "You need to be both enthusiastic as well as practical in answering this question. My approach would probably be to say that I love their program. However, I can not make a final decision until I

have completed all my interviews. I have shown my interest in their program; I have also shown a practical approach in dealing with difficult issues. I am not rushing into making such a significant decision in my life."

17. What other programs have you applied to? Why? Would you prefer to stay on the East or West Coast? **Sample:** "List the programs for them. Usually they are trying to see if you are practical enough to have applied to back up programs in case you fail to enter an elite program."
18. Our school is now looking for a new dean (a new hospital or any other issues with an uncertain future). Does that concern you? Why? Why not?

3. Experiences: education/medicine/healthcare

3.1 Academics

1. Tell me about [the school that you attended]
2. What is your preferred way of learning and how do you learn best? Tell me about your study habits.
3. Describe the kind of program you are enrolled in for your undergraduate degree.
4. What science class did you dislike the most?
5. What was your favorite science class? Why?
6. What classes did you struggle with during school?
7. Which classes did you enjoy most? Why? --talk with great enthusiasm when you are talking about things you like in general. Make sure that your enthusiasm is at its highest when you talk about medicine!
8. Why did you do so poorly in [course] Why was that course so difficult? --this is a good opportunity to defend or explain 19. bad grades, etc. Use it to your advantage; think about what you will discuss very carefully. You may even want to bring up this subject when you are asked "do you have any more questions?"
9. What courses have you taken that you've found interesting and why?
10. What did you most dislike about undergraduate studies?
11. Why did you choose your undergraduate major?
12. What are the challenges you have faced during your undergraduate program and how did you address them?
13. If you could do anything different in your education, what would it be?
14. If you were to do anything differently in your preparation for medical school, what would that be?
15. What were your most memorable accomplishments in your college career?
16. I note that you did not perform well on the (section of the MCAT). Explain why you are weak in this area.
17. How do you study/prepare for exams?
18. Do you engage in self-directed learning?
19. Would you consider a career in your present course of studies?
20. Can you convince me that you can cope with the workload in medical school?

3.2 Healthcare, Volunteer, Extracurricular Experiences

1. Have you done any volunteer work?
2. What kind of experiences do you have in the medical field? **Sample:** "This is an excellent opportunity to discuss some of the strong points in your application. Keep in mind that some interviewers do not have time to read all of your submitted information (but some will read everything in detail and will ask you questions to double check some of your statements!)"

3. I see that you have had considerable volunteer experiences. What have you learned from those experiences?
4. What experiences have you had in community involvement that demonstrate your commitment to medicine?
5. What experiences have you had working with diverse populations?
6. What experience have you had working with people?
7. Name a meaningful experience you've had and how it shaped you to pursue work as a physician.
8. Have you had any practical experiences in medicine?
9. Have you shadowed any physicians or PAs?
10. What types of volunteer work have you had?
11. What experiences have you had with the medical profession?
12. What kinds of direct patient care experiences do you have?
13. What have you done to prepare yourself to be a doctor?
14. What extracurricular activities were you involved in during your undergraduate major?
15. I see that you have had a research experience in college. What have you learned about that process?

3.3 Knowledge of field/realistic view of profession

1. What do you think will be your greatest challenge in completing medical school or learning how to be a doctor?
2. What do you feel is the purpose of Medical School?
3. What characteristics are important in a doctor? Which of your characteristics are best and worst for this career?
4. How have your experiences prepared you for this career?
5. What exposure have you had to the medical profession?
6. What do you feel are the most important qualities in being a good doctor?
7. What field of medicine interests you the most?
8. Discuss your clinical experiences.
9. Discuss your volunteer work.
10. Given a specific medical scenario: How would you treat the patient?
11. Do you see any negatives in the (medical) profession?
12. What sorts of ethical problems can you see coming up in the medical profession?
13. What makes a good physician?
14. What steps have you taken to acquaint yourself with what a physician does?
15. Why is medicine such an important field?
16. Is medicine a rewarding experience? Why?
17. What field of medicine are you interested in? What branch of medicine most interests you?
18. What do you think you will like most about medicine?
19. What effect does and will science have upon medicine?
20. What do you think you will like least about medicine?
21. What are some of the things you will have to give up as a doctor?
22. What qualities do patients appreciate in doctors? Colleagues?
23. Why is research important? What are the benefits of research?
24. Would you practice in the inner city? What do think happens to people who practice there (attitude, changes, etc)?
25. In third and fourth years, as well as residency, you will be very busy. What sacrifices do you expect to make and what sacrifices are you willing to make?
26. How do you know that you will end up enjoying your job?—BE HONEST, not sure yet,

can't know for sure until I experience it, you see physicians who have been working for a long time that lose their passion and enjoy much less, however...

27. How do you plan to balance your personal life with being a doctor?
28. Do you think socio-economic status is a factor in acceptance to medical school?
29. From what you understand of medical school, what part of the program will be most difficult for you?
30. Why do you think so many people want to be doctors?
31. Would you practice in the inner city? What do you think happens to people who practice medicine there (attitude changes, etc.)?
32. What stimulated your interest in medicine?
33. Name a meaningful experience you've had and how it shaped you to pursue work as a physician.
34. What is your concept of the doctor/patient relationship
35. Tell me what you know it is to be a physician?
36. List several qualities that you feel are the most important in being a good physician.
37. List several qualities that you feel are the most important in being a good medical school student.

3.4 Knowledge of Healthcare System/Issues (Canada)

1. How did Canada's health care system come about?
2. How would you describe the relationship between science and medicine?
3. What are some problems facing Canada's health care system? What should we do to address them?
4. If you could change one thing about the Canadian health care system, what would it be?
5. What 2 challenges will health care face in this century?
6. What will be the most important health care issue in Ontario in the future?
7. What do you think is the role of privatizing pharmaceuticals in managing the problems in health care today?
8. How do you feel about privatizing health care?
9. What role does the physician have in society?
10. How do you feel about incentive programs for rural medicine? How else can we promote doctors to work more rural areas?
11. What is your opinion of nurse practitioners?
12. What do think the biggest challenges for doctors will be in 10 years?
13. What are solutions to the Canadian physician shortage?
14. Compare/contrast Canadian and US health care. What would you incorporate from the American health care system to improve the Canadian health care system?
15. How would you deal with the problem of a type 2 diabetes epidemic and the cost of dialysis?
16. What are your views on the government capping physician salaries?
17. If you had 10 million dollars to spend on health care, how would you allocate the funds?
18. Should Canada offer free tuition for medical school? If yes, where should the money come from?
19. Once a physician, how will you work to improve the Canadian Health Care System? Specifically, how will you deal with issues like bed / staff shortages?
20. How would you solve Canada's poor distribution of physicians across the country?
21. What are some ways in which delivery of health care will change in the future?
22. Can you talk about primary care reform?

23. What were the two greatest medical advances in the last century?
24. Discuss with the interviewer current areas open to improvement in the Canadian medical system.
25. How do you think your role as a physician fits in with your role as a member of the community?
26. In what field do you think the next major advancement in medicine will come?
27. What are some current controversial areas of medicine? What are your thoughts?
28. Give me a list of three political issues that you feel are of great importance in the healthcare field right now.
29. What are some current controversial areas in medicine? Select one then give your opinion on it and defend that opinion.
30. Weaknesses and strengths of the healthcare system.
31. In your view, what is the most pressing problem facing medicine/healthcare today?
32. What is your opinion of National Health Insurance?
33. What politicians are currently impacting medicine? Do you agree with the decisions they are making?
34. What is your concept of the biopsychosocial model of medicine?
35. Do you think that doctors are being paid too much or too little? Why?
36. How do you feel about the new HIPPA regulations?
37. How would you go about improving access to health care in this country?
38. What are your views on the latest changes to the Medicare program?
39. What are your views on alternative medicine?
40. What have you recently read in the press about health care? List three issues that confront medicine today. Of the three, which is the most important and why?
41. What do you think should be done to control health care costs in this country?
42. Is health care a right or a privilege?
43. I don't believe that AIDS education is very effective - What do you think?
44. If you had the power, what changes would you make to our health-care system?
45. What is your opinion of HMOs and PPOs?
46. Is it ethical for doctors to strike?
47. What is the Hippocratic Oath?
48. What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?
49. How would you attract physicians to rural areas?
50. What most recent advances in medicine have occurred that you believe will have the greatest impact on how you will practice medicine?
51. How would your plans differ if you knew that all physicians would be working in HMO's in the future?
52. Discuss National Health Insurance and how it would affect the physician and the patient.
53. Do you feel that medical students receiving federal loans should spend time practicing medicine in a rural area to give society something in return?
54. What are the differences between Britain's health care delivery system and ours?
55. What do you think about American primary health care delivery (i.e., status quo, total private systems, national health insurance)?
56. What do you think about the health care system and which way should it go?
57. What do you think is wrong with the current health care system in the US?
58. What do you think about HMO's and the changes taking place in medicine?
59. What is your opinion on the two-tier health care system?
60. What do you think of herbal/alternative medicine? Should people choose them over traditional medicine? What would you do if a family member decides to solely depend on alternative medicine for his treatment of a significant illness (cancer, etc.)?

61. What are your thoughts on Medicare reform? Capitation, HMO's, PPO's, etc?
62. How would you improve our preventive care settings?
63. How would you improve access to care in this country?
64. Do you feel that the government should be involved with mandating insurance? Subsidizing insurance?
65. How would you control the cost of healthcare? --hay, nobody has figured that one out yet. 6. Don't pretend like you know all the answers. Think of some plausible responses and be concise and specific. State that your answer is only one of many possibilities.
66. Do you think doctors are getting paid too much? Too little? Do you think that decreasing the salaries of physicians can solve our healthcare cost issues? How about socialized medicine?
67. What do you think of the doctor shortage/oversupply in different areas? How would you improve this situation?
68. Why do you think the number of applicants has been growing every year despite the problems we face in medicine?
69. What qualities would you look for in your patients?
70. What is the most difficult issue facing the medical community? How about doctors in general?
71. Your reading of the newspapers keeps you up to date with the current issues in medicine. You should feel comfortable discussing the health cost and access issues that have been raised. Try to list the different possible scenarios for the future of medicine.
72. What are your thoughts on capitation?
73. What do you think will be the most difficult aspect of medical school? --don't come up with multiple answers which would convince the interviewer that you would have a tough time in medical school. State the obvious like the need for increased studying; you may want to add that you can handle this sudden increase in your workload based on some previous quarter or semester in which you took 5000 units, etc!
74. What qualities would you look for in a doctor? --think of all your strength and stress the importance of possessing them as a doctor! You need to remind the interviewer that you possess all these strengths.
75. What is the difference between an HMO and a PPO? Which system do you prefer and why?
76. Name some strategies to address the problem of smoking among teens; talk about some that haven't been tried before.

4. Ethical questions

There are many topics/issues that you should think about beforehand: determinations of death, the right to die/euthanasia, care of the elderly, confidentiality, psychiatric care, terminal illness, abortion, religion, experimental treatments, etc. Consider what your thoughts/stance is regarding these issues and be prepared to discuss them.

1. Say you were a doctor and your patient is terminal. The patient looks at you with hope and asks if he will make it. What do you tell him?
2. How might you calm a nervous patient?
3. What if you had a patient that did not pay?
4. Do you think a physician should tell a patient he has 8 months to live?
5. What would you do if a doctor gave you orders that you know will harm the patient?
6. Pretend that you're the doctor. You see a patient who gives you some grief and complains. At the end of treatment he asks you if he was a good patient. What do you say?
7. Your supervising physician comes into work drunk. How would you handle the situation?
8. Imagine you are a physician. You are working with a patient who is refusing a treatment that you believe is necessary. What would you do?

9. Would you perform abortions as a doctor? Under what conditions?
10. Would you share your religious beliefs with your patients?
11. How do you help people who don't want to be helped?
12. Would you prefer to provide less effective medicine to more people or more effective medicine to less people?
13. How do you feel about animal research?
14. Who should definitely not be cloned?
15. Do you think doctors should lie to patients?
16. Talk about the ethics of lying--when is it okay?
17. What would you do if you caught your roommate cheating on his med school application?
18. What do you think of the priority system for organ recipients? What about the system for allocating money for medicine?
19. How would you deal with a patient who was treating you badly (assume other patients in the office can overhear)?
20. Do you think there should be mandatory HIV testing for couples wanting to be married?
21. If there was an accident on the highway, would you stop and help the victims, knowing that doing so might lead to a malpractice claim against you?
22. When was a time you dealt with an immoral situation and how?
23. What is your opinion of abortion? What would you tell a woman who wants an abortion?
24. What is your opinion on euthanasia? What would you do if your patient asked you for euthanasia?
25. If your father was ill, and on a waitlist, would you drive to [remote location, another country] for treatment?
26. Do you think a physician should tell a patient he/she has eight months to live?
27. A patient who has been in an accident needs a blood transfusion. She states that her religion does not allow them. You are the physician in charge. What will you do? Will you override her strong objection? Why/ why not?
28. If you have the choice of giving a transplant to a successful elderly member of the community or a 20-year old drug addict, how would you choose?
29. What do you think of affirmative action?
30. A pregnant 15-year-old unmarried teenager comes into your office asking for an abortion. What would you do? Would you inform her parents?
31. A 14-year-old gay and promiscuous male comes to you to be treated for a STD. During the conversation he mentions that he has been tested for HIV several times and would like to be tested again to see if he is still uninfected. How would you handle this situation?
32. During a routine physical examination of a 10-year-old girl you discover unmistakable evidence that she has been physically and sexually abused over a period of time. Both her parents are in the waiting room. How would you respond to this situation?
33. You have two patients who have been admitted after a serious accident. Both require immediate attention in order to survive. One patient is 20 years old; the other is 60 years old. Which life would you save?
34. Do physicians have the right to deny care to patients on Medicaid?
35. If you find that the professor with whom you have done research has changed some of the data before publication, what would you do?
36. What would you do if you saw a fellow med student cheating on an exam?
37. Would you get out of your car in a highway to help an accident victim? How would you approach the situation?
38. If an AIDS patient was bleeding profusely from a laceration, what would you do? What if you do not have gloves? What if you have an open sore on your hands?

39. Should fetal tissue be used to treat disease (i.e. Parkinson's)?
40. If you were a doctor and an underage girl asked you for the Pill (or an abortion) and she did not want to tell her parents, what would you do?
41. Should doctors be allowed to 'pull the plug' on terminally ill patients?
42. If a patient is dying from a bleed, would you transfuse blood if you knew they would not approve (i.e. Jehovah's Witness)?
43. A 34 year-old man presents with AIDS and tells you, as his physician, that he does not want to tell his wife. What would you do? Would you inform the wife?
44. An eighteen year-old female arrives in the emergency room with a profound nose bleed. You are the physician and you have stopped the bleeding. She is now in a coma from blood loss and will die without a transfusion. A nurse finds a recent signed card from the Jehovah's Witness in the patient's purse refusing blood transfusions under any circumstance. What would you do?

5. Other

5.1 Current events/World/History

1. What do you think about (some current event)?
2. What is the most important development in the world in the last 25 years?
3. What are 3 world events of significance in your lifetime?
4. What are the most influential world events of the last 30 years? What event in the world's history do you think has had the greatest impact on today's society?
5. Name a significant international event that occurred during the 90s.
6. Who is the most influential person of all time?
7. What do you think are the 2 most important issues facing the world today?
8. How would you change Bush's mind on stem cell research?
9. What do you think are two major issues Canada is dealing with?
10. Name the three most powerful people in the world today.
11. Can you draw any parallels between the American-Iraq conflict and WWII?
12. What do you hope for Canada for the future?
13. What do you think of the free-trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico?
14. What would you do as Prime Minister of Canada with respect to the persistent national debt?
15. How would you address Canada's constitutional crisis?
16. What are the prospects for a lasting peace in South Africa? Eastern Europe? The former USSR? The Middle-East?
17. What do you think of Jack Kevorkian?
18. What is the biggest problem in the world today?
19. What is your solution to terrorism?
20. What do you think about the ongoing conflict in Iraq?

Suggested Topics to Have an Opinion On:

Canadian and Ontario health care system.

Political health care representatives (ie. Tony Clement, Roy Romanow).

Canadian and Ontario health issues (ie. doctor, equipment shortages, etc.)

Canadians in the news- good people, bad people, deserving people, famous people.

Current issues in the news around the world and in Canada and US. Terrorism/antiterrorism.

Democracy.

Major historical events and people.

5.2 Weird/out-of-the-blue/creative questions

1. What is the hardest question you've been asked at any interview?
2. If you were a car, what kind of car would you be and why?
3. If man colonized the moon and you were chosen to direct the first lunar hospital, what would be your 3 most important priorities for that hospital?
4. If somebody was writing a book about you in 15 years, what would you want to be included in this book?
5. If you could recommend one book for the whole world to read, what would it be?
6. If you had to live on an island, what 3 things would you bring with you?
7. Of the following 3 people which one would be your hero: Nelson Mandela, William Osler,
8. Bono?
9. If you were to have dinner with any 3 people who lived within the past 100 years, who
10. would it be and why?
11. What is your favourite organ? (disguised question attempted at asking you what specialty
12. you want to get in)
13. If you could be any object in this room what would you be?
14. If you could be any kitchen appliance, what would you be and why?
15. For someone who plays the piano: Briefly explain, in simple terms, how you would teach
16. them to play the piano.
17. What kind of impression of yourself do you think you've given us so far?
18. If there was one question you'd hate for us to ask you, what would it be and why?
19. If you were a cookie, what kind of cookie would you be?
20. If we contacted your references now, what do you think they would say about you?
21. What else do you want us to know about you before you leave today?
22. Discuss a book that you have recently read for pleasure. Why did you select the book?
23. If you could invite four people to dinner, who would they be? Why?
24. What haven't we talked about?
25. If you could be any character in history, who would it be and why?
26. What is the difference between sympathy and empathy?
27. If I offered you a spot in our next class before you left this interview under the condition that you would refuse all other offers, would you accept?
28. Have you ever written or sent a letter to a political representative in which you have expressed your views on a subject?
29. If you could be any type of cell in the human body, what type of cell would you choose to be and why?
30. You are granted any three wishes by a genie. What would your wishes be?
31. You are stranded on a desert island. What three books would you want to have with you and why?
32. Describe yourself in the third person. What didn't you like about that question?
33. If you could be anything else what would you be?
34. If you had one day to do anything, what would you do?
35. What was the last book you read? What did you think about it? Would you recommend that I read it?
36. Have you prepared for this interview?
37. What type of impression do you feel you've left me in this interview?

31 Questions I Wish I Had Asked: Organization of Student Representatives Association of American Medical Colleges, January 1992

Medical schools, like individuals, are very different—in their philosophies, faculties, curricula, and the type of students they attract. Consequently, selecting the "best" medical school for you can be very challenging. The following set of questions was compiled by medical students from across the country to assist you in evaluating the schools you will visit. This list is by no means complete; it was designed to serve as a base for your own questions. Keep in mind that the interview represents a wonderful time for **you** to learn, so don't be shy about asking **anyone** your questions. Congratulations on your career choice and good luck with interviews!

1. Are there any special programs for which this medical school is noted?
2. Describe this school's curriculum in the pre-clinical and clinical years. Are there any innovations, like Problem-Based Learning?
3. Are there opportunities for students to design, conduct, and publish their own research?
4. Is there a note-taking service? If so, is it University-run or student-run?
5. Is there flexibility in the coursework (the number of electives) and the timing of the courses (accelerating, decelerating, and time off) during the pre-clinical and clinical years?
6. Has this medical school, or any of its clinical departments, been on probation or had its accreditation revoked?
7. How do students from this medical school perform on the National Board Examinations? How does the school assist students who do not pass?
8. How are students evaluated academically? How are clinical evaluations performed?
9. Is there a formal mechanism in place for students to evaluate their professors and attending physicians? What changes have been made recently as a result of this feedback?
10. What kind of academic, personal, financial, and career counseling is available to students? Are these services also offered to their spouses and dependents/children?
11. Is there a mentor/advisor system? Who are the advisors—faculty members, other students, or both?
12. How diverse is the student body? Are there support services or organizations for ethnic minorities and women?
13. Tell me about the library and extracurricular facilities (i.e., housing and athletic/recreational facilities).
14. Are there computer facilities available to students? Are they integrated into the curriculum/learning?
15. What type of clinical sites—ambulatory, private preceptors, private hospitals, rural settings— are available or required for clerkships? Does this school allow for students to do rotations at other institutions or internationally?
16. Is a car necessary for clinical rotations? Is parking a problem?
17. What is the current tuition and fees? Is this expected to increase yearly? If so, at what rate?
18. Are there stable levels of federal financial aid and substantial amounts of university/medical school endowment aid available to students?
19. Are there students who have an "unmet need" factor in their budget? If so, where do these students come up with the extra funds?
20. Are spouses and dependents/children covered in a student's budget?
21. Is someone available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
22. Does this school provide guidance to its students, and to its graduates/alumni, on debt management?

23. What medical school committees (e.g., curriculum committee) have student representation?
24. Are students involved in (required or voluntary) community service?
25. How active is the Student Council/Government? Are there other student organizations?
26. Is there an established protocol for dealing with student exposure to infectious diseases? Is disability insurance provided to cover this exposure?
27. Does this school provide, or does the student pay for, vaccinations against Hepatitis B or prophylactic AZT treatment in case of a needle-stick or accident?
28. Is there a school Honor Code? Is there a grievance process/procedure? Are the students involved?
29. May I see a list of residency programs to which this school's recent graduates were accepted?
30. Does this school have strengths in the type of medicine (primary versus specialized care, urban versus rural practice environment, academic medicine versus private practice) that I will want to practice?
31. Would I be happy at this school (for at least the next four years)?
32. What is the nature of the grading system?
33. What sorts of early clinical experiences are available?
34. Is there anything unusual about the sequence of preclinical classes?
35. Are there any teaching/research opportunities?
36. How many students are admitted each year?
37. Describe the hospitals in which students do their clinical rotations?
38. What is the typical student make-up of the classes?
39. What are the particular clinical emphases of this school?
40. What are the particular strengths and weaknesses of this school?
41. What is the summer schedule?
42. Is there any opportunity for fourth year clerkships abroad?