

Sample Medical School Interview Questions:
(Questions from interviews at Duke, Stanford, and USC)

Personal Characteristics / Skills / Strengths

- Tell me about yourself
- If your best friends were asked to describe you, what would they say?
- How do you respond to criticism? Describe a situation where your work was criticized. What was your immediate reaction to the situation?
- What are your positive qualities and what are your shortcomings?
- What would you change about yourself and why?
- Describe your personality.

Academic Experiences / Qualifications / Performance

- Why do you want to be a doctor?
- What are your specific goals in medicine?
- What is your first-choice school? To what other schools are you applying?
- What do you intend to gain from a medical education?
- Why do you think so many people want to be doctors?
- Why did you apply here (to this University)?
- Why choose medicine over some other career in health?
- What field of medicine interests you most?
- There are 1,000 applicants as qualified as you. Why should we pick you?
- What steps have you taken to acquaint yourself with what a physician does?
- What do you think is the most pressing issue in medicine today?
- What will you do if you don't get into medical school?
- How do you think your role as a physician fits in with your role as a member of the community?
- What do you have to offer our school?
- What do you see yourself doing in medicine 10-15 years from now?
- Is medicine a rewarding experience? Why?
- Would you practice in the inner city? What do you think happens to people who practice medicine there (attitude changes, etc.)?
- What aspects of your life's experiences do you think make you a good candidate for medical school?
- How do you plan to finance your medical education?
- What will you do if you fail to gain admission to medical school this year?

Current Medical Topics / Controversies / Issues

- What do you think about euthanasia (physician-assisted suicide)?
- What is your opinion about ethics of stem cell research?
- What is your opinion about alternative medicine?
- Do you think a physician should tell a patient he/she has eight months to live?
- 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?
- Do you think physicians should lie to patients?
- What are the negative aspects of being a doctor?
- So you like helping others...why not be a policeman?

- In your opinion, what are the three most important problems in medicine?
- What problems do you see in patient care?
- Tell me about your research.
- What can be done about rising health costs?
- How do you see the field of medicine changing in the next ten years? How do you see yourself fitting into those changes?
- How do you feel about animal research?
- What do you think of government's involvement in health care?
- Are you interested in research? How do you imagine the balance of research and clinical work in your future?

Unusual or General Questions:

- Tell me about yourself.
- What do you fear most?
- What do you feel has been your greatest accomplishment?
- What do you feel has been your greatest failure? How did you handle it? How has it changed you?
- If you could sit down and have a conversation with anyone in the world, who would you choose and why?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- If you were told by a doctor that you had only 1 year to live, what would you spend that time doing?
- What is your relationship with your family?
- Discuss a book that you have recently read for pleasure. Why does this book interest you?
- What section of the newspaper do you read first?
- Tell me about a goal you have set for yourself and how you have achieved it or intend to achieve it.
- If you had to change anything about your education, what would you change?
- Describe a situation in which you felt like a fish out of water.
- How do you work under pressure? Give an example.
- What are the best and worst things that have ever happened to you?
- What do you think about (...**some current event**)?
- What activities do you enjoy most outside of the classroom?
- Do you have any hobbies or outside interests?
- Tell me about any volunteer experiences in which you have participated.
- What do you think is the most important quality a physician should have?
- What type of impression do you feel you've left on me in this interview?