



Pre-Med Interviewing

Suggested Questions for Interviewer: *

- 1) How early are students exposed to clinical medicine?*
- 2) Is the school more research or clinically orientated? How does that affect students? (If you have been involved in research be prepared to discuss.)
- 3) Ask about facilities and/or programs in fields of special interest, such as MD-MPH (Master's in Public Health), etc.....*
- 4) Know in advance whether or not the school offers combined MD-MPH programs, etc. If not, how will they assist you in fulfilling career goal in this area? Will the fourth year be available to you for elective opportunities in other areas, or will the medical school require you to do electives at their school? *
- 5) Hospital Affiliations: What kind of clinical exposure can you expect? Will your training experience include a cross-section of the population?
- 6) If it's not in the brochure, ask questions about the school's requirements concerning National Board Exams I and II. Must both parts be passed before the M.D. degree is conferred? How do the students perform on these exams? *
- 7) Ask questions concerning the attrition rate of minority students at the school. Have programs (if they exist) for recruitment and retention been reasonably successful?
- 8) Does the school anticipate any curriculum changes in the coming year? Has this caused problems in the past? (Definitely ask the medical students about this to get a complete perspective).
- 9) Does your school have reading periods before examinations? Is there time allotted to study for the national Boards?
- 10) Do not be apologetic or defensive about low grades, drops, leaves of absences, etc. Have your explanations thought out before hand and express them in a matter-of-fact way. Be clear and brief. Keep in mind, you are adults and must direct your own lives in a manner you deem most correct. Don't make excuses for choices you've made. You may, however, briefly indicate the lessons you derived from your experience. (Note: Some schools, e.g., Tufts, look favorably upon student who have taken time off from college.)

Be certain to review the school website prior to the interview to avoid asking questions that are answered there. The starred items () should especially be checked.

This information has been taken from handouts for the Harvard Health Professions Summer Program.