

Excerpts from the AAMC Careers in Medicine Website

www.careersinmedicine.org

Frequently Asked Interview Questions:

The final and most important area of preparation is to practice interview questions. Using the list of questions provided below, plan ahead by writing out or rehearsing your responses.

- Tell me about yourself.
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What attracts you to this residency/specialty area?
- Where do you see yourself in five to ten years?
- What makes you best qualified for this residency program?
- Why are you interested in this program?
- What can you contribute to this program?
- Describe a clinical situation you handled well, and one where things didn't go as well as you would have liked. (*Prepare to describe 2 cases in case interviewer asks for a different case*)
- Describe a patient that influenced you in school
- Do you have any questions?

Tips for Handling Difficult Questions:

- Brainstorm a list of possible questions you may be asked.
- Concentrate on areas that worry you most, and solicit help in preparing responses.
- Think before responding; there's nothing wrong with pausing briefly first.
- Be brief and respond in a factual way. Don't give more information than is necessary.
- Ask the interviewer to restate the question if you don't understand it. Try to determine what information the interviewer seeks.
- Never fabricate or overstate information.
- Anticipate difficult questions, prepare responses in advance, and rehearse.

Possible Questions to Ask During Interviews

- Are there any major changes anticipated in the program in the near future?
- Does the program allow for/emphasize research by the housestaff?
- What elective opportunities are available to your house officers?
- What paths have most of your recent graduates taken following completion of their training?
- What percentage of your faculty graduated from this program?

Things NOT to ask about during the Interview:

- Salary, Benefits, Vacation – you can usually find this information in a packet that the program will give you.
- Call schedule (you can ask the residents about this...)