



The University Advising and Career Center

Louise Ewing
Career Counselor

Amy Dickens
Health Professions Advisor

Hood House
Durham, NH 03824
603 862 2064
amy.dickens@unh.edu,
lewing@unh.edu
www.unh.edu/uacc



How not to....

★ What not to interview...



2009 Applicant Panel



Preparing for a Successful Interview

“It’s a conversation. They know you can do the work. They want to know you as a person.” – UNH Med Student

“The more you can reveal about yourself, weaving life experiences into the conversation, the more you’ll stand out.” – UNH Dental Student

“Your numbers can get you to the door. But it’s everything else that gets you through the door.”
– Health Professions Admissions Guide



Preparing for a Successful Interview

- Before – Preparation
- During – Action
- After – Follow-up



Preparation

UNH Committee

vs.

Health Profession Schools

All applicants interviewed
Three individual interviews
Evaluation letters used to develop Composite letter

Only selected applicants interviewed
May be individual and/group interviews
Evaluation used in determining offer of admission

The Basics

- Evaluating interpersonal skills - who you are beyond grades/ paperwork/scores
- Review all information you have submitted
- Bring your CV/Resume and all forms with you
- Practice interviewing



Preparation

- Know yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, skills, & personal values
- Think seriously about areas of weakness that have been challenging for you and have helped you grow as a person.
- Facebook, MySpace, Google, etc.
- Current issues in your profession
- The school – do your research and have questions



Preparation

You're at the interview-

Schools are assessing:

- Understanding of the career -Why MD, DO,DDS, etc vs. other health fields
- Motivation
- Knowledge of current issues
- Level of maturity & judgment
- Ability to empathize with people from various cultural & ethnic backgrounds
- Analytical Skills, Flexibility/Adaptability, Self-Confidence, Leadership
- How well and logically do you think on your feet
- Emotional stability
- Intellectual curiosity
- How well you learn from experience
- Communication, Interpersonal, & Teamwork skills
- Honesty, Integrity, Strong Work Ethic
- How you will fit in with their program

Be ready to give personal examples.



Preparation: Research

- Interviewing handout, www.unh.edu/premed-advising/
- www.studentdoctor.net - Feedback from applicants who have interviewed at HP schools. Found under the “Databases” tab.
- NAAHP Interviewing Guide - Hood House 102 library
- **Review your personal statement and application!**
- School’s website and programs
- Journal articles & general knowledge of trends in medicine and world events
- Talk to current students and UNH alum at specific med schools.



Interview Formats at HP Schools

- One on one
- Group of students
- Group of interviewers
- Group of both

Information resources: www.studentdoctor.net
& school info packets



Preparation: Practice

- UACC interview coaching, friends and family, in front of a mirror.
- Prepare questions to ask - this is your opportunity to learn if this is the right match for you. It's a two-way street.



Preparation

- Dress appropriately – give the outfit a dry run before the interview.
- Think about grooming & hygiene.
- Confirm time of interview, get accurate directions, get there early.
- Call if you are going to be late, **but don't be late!**
- Have at least 1 copy of application.



During the Interview

- Arrive 10 minutes early.
- First Impressions – solid handshake, eye contact, small talk, smile, say the person's name.
- Turn off cell phone, don't bring in drinks (unless offered), etc.
- Body language/posture
- Voice



During the Interview

- Listen to the question, pause to consider the answer, ask for clarification.
- Be honest in your answers.
- Know your application!
- Have questions ready to ask.



During the Interview

- Questions will be open-ended and answers should be relevant and focused.
- Don't wait to be asked for an example: use specific examples as part of your answer.
- Talk about challenges you have successfully met.
- Be succinct, persuasive, and enthusiastic.
- Remember – you are interviewing them just as they are interviewing you.



During the Interview

Avoid:

- Mono-syllabic answers with no elaboration
- Taking over the interview
- Overly rehearsed answers, providing them even if the question hasn't been asked
- Being “chummy”



Interview Follow-up

- Take time to reflect on your impressions, and write down what you did and didn't like.
- Get the names of the people you interviewed with.
- Send a thank you note – be professional. If there is something you would like to highlight about the school or the visit, say it.
- Send it out immediately



Next Steps

- Continue to develop the list of your top qualities
- Identify different scenarios that demonstrate those qualities
- Review questions on Interviewing Handout: can you respond to them in a succinct and informed way?
- Scan a major newspaper daily, & check professional websites regularly (several professional organizations are listed on the Health Professions “Resources” webpage)
- What other steps will you take?



Next Steps

- Make an appointment at UACC (862-2064) at 102 Hood House for additional career help, including interview coaching.