

# MD/PhD Interview Guide

## Sample Interview Questions

- What academic or non-academic experience shaped your decision to pursue an MD/PhD dual degree?
- When did you initially discover that you wanted to pursue a career in medicine and research?
- What are some obstacles that you have overcome to arrive at this point?
- What qualities/attributes do you possess that will allow you to balance life as a physician scientist?
- What aspect(s) of research excited you the most?
- If you could improve any aspect of your application, what would it be?
- What elements of your previous research training would you like to build upon during your training as an MD/PhD student?
- What are some qualities in our program that you feel will prepare you for a career as a physician scientist?

- Describe the most exciting moment in your research experience thus far?
- What experiences do you believe will aid in your **development** as a well-rounded physician scientist? Do you feel that this program will offer you these opportunities?
- What is the one thing you want me to convey to the admission committee?
- How do you see the field of medicine changing in the next ten years?
- How do you see yourself fitting into those changes?
- What do you think you will find most difficulty about medical school?
- Describe a past stressful experience? How did you handle the pressure? What would you have done differently?
- What is a valuable lesson you learned while working under your research mentor(s)?



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## General Tips

- **Smile and make eye contact.** Don't underestimate the power of positive body language! Maintain a positive attitude throughout the day.
- **Actively engage with interviewers and other interviewees.** Active engagement reflects your enthusiasm and desire to join the program.
- **Be prepared for certain questions but do not over-rehearse.** You want your responses to sound like normal conversation and not like a memorized script.
- **Be prepared to discuss your research.** Be able to answer questions and demonstrate your critical thinking ability. And potential for and interest in research.
- **Be able talk about any experience listed in your AMCAS application,** even if it occurred a number of years ago.
- **Anticipate questions** about things in your record that may concern the interviewer.
- **Be prepared to talk about an interviewer's research.** This is particularly important if you requested to meet with a specific person. It is important that you have some knowledge about the interviewer's current research interests, especially if you requested to meet with him/her. Do your homework.
- **Show motivation for dual degree.** Interviewers want to weed out those looking for a "Free MD".
- **Have questions of your own about the program.**
- **Engage in conversation with your fellow applicants** in between interviews and during the breaks. This will help reduce some of the interview day stress. Also, you can start to become acquainted with potential future classmates. Do they seem happy and positive about their experience in the Program?



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