

Pre-Dental Association

3/10/15

Important Upcoming Dates

- Dental Hygiene Kits
 - toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash (100 kits)
 - Thursday, March 19th
- UIC Admissions Presentation: 3/24/15
 - dress appropriately
 - 6:00pm
- SAGA & Damen Awards
- E-Board Elections

Interview Preparation

- practice answers beforehand
 - write out questions on index cards & summarize answers on back
 - DO NOT MEMORIZE answers, but know what you want to say
- SDN forums are a GREAT resource
- <http://schools.studentdoctor.net/schools/?view=medical>

How to Dress

- professional outfit
- men: suit & tie
- women: pants/skirt suit or dress with jacket
- avoid a lot of makeup, accessories, perfume, etc.
- no bright colors, keep it simple (don't be remembered by your outfit)
- comfortable shoes/another pair

Interview Types

- one on one
- group interview
- MMI
- panel
- mock PBL/SGL
- open/closed file

Interview Day

- BE ON TIME!!
- interviews (obviously)
- tour of the school/clinic
- Q & A with current students
- financial aid presentation
- food (yay!)
- school curriculum presentation

Interviews!

- The best answers involve...
 - answering the question that was asked
 - giving specific examples
 - relating to the ultimate purpose at hand (i.e. dental school)

Tell Me About Yourself

- do not tell your life story
- think about 3 main topics to discuss
- this is not just a casual question, treat it seriously

What are your strengths?

- be specific
- think of how others would describe you
- make sure you give relevant skills/qualities

What are your weaknesses?

- do not use actual positives as weaknesses (i.e. perfectionist)
- think about actual weakness & how you are working to improve them
- tell the truth

Why do you want to go into this field?

- how you made your decision
- why does dentistry attract you
- do not repeat yourself

Why our school?

- do research beforehand
- website, talking to current students, visiting, etc.

Context Questions

- questions that arise from previous answers
- make it interesting
- don't give one-word answers

Case Questions

- typically “What would you do if...?”
 - can’t practice specific answers beforehand
- don’t panic!
 - ok to say “Let me think for a minute”
 - answer in stages
 - think aloud
 - ask further clarification

Ask Questions!

- do not ask questions that can be answered through the website (i.e. tuition)
- have several questions in mind that you want to ask

Keep in mind...

- your tone (volume, pace, inflection)
- body language
 - posture
 - hands

Common Themes

- diversity
- leadership
- why this school (make sure you do research ahead of time)
- ethics
- personal characteristics
- volunteering

After the Interview

- send thank you notes to **EVERYONE** who interviewed you
- write down as much as you can remember after the interview (what you thought went well, poorly, questions that were asked, etc.)
 - this will help you improve future interviews

Our Activity!

- questions posted around the room
- walk around & write brief answers on post-it notes & stick it next to the questions
 - don't write your name!
- we will review answers afterwards