School of Medicine Interviewing Tips:

A. Know Your Interviewers
The interview groups may include basic science and clinical faculty, practicing physicians, and/or 4th year medical school students.

B. Know the Interview Formats
Different schools have different formats that may differ slightly. Generally, KUMC conducts two interviews, one with one interviewer (open file) and one with two interviewers. Each of the two interviews may be up to 30 minutes long. In the one-on-one interview, the interviewer has access to the entire file, including grades, MCAT scores, and recommendation letters. In the two-on-one interview, they only have the AMCAS essay, work & activity entries, and answers to supplemental questions.

C. Have What They Look For
- **Motivation** - Why do you want to become a physician?
- **Self-Appraisal** - How do you see yourself?
- **Problem-Solving/Judgment** - How do you solve problems, and resolve ethical issues? The answers you arrive at may be less important than the path you take, your problem-solving style.
- **Commitment to Service** - Are you compassionate and caring?
- **Interpersonal Skills** - Can you communicate clearly?
- **Do you understand what you are asking for?** What do you know about being a physician?

D. General Hints
- **Talk about what you have done**, not just what you want to do.
- **They look for passion** - Are you passionate about becoming a physician, or do you "light up" when you talk about another career possibility?
- **Open & Honest** - Do you come across as genuine when you talk about your interest in medicine?
- **If all else is equal, they look for an interest in primary care for people who are underserved in Kansas**. Saying you are interested in primary care medicine for people in rural areas is, however, such a common assertion that just saying it is meaningless. You must support your assertions with explanations, examples and actions (What have you done?).
- **Admissions Committee** Members often ask themselves questions like: "Is this someone I want in my class?" and "Is this someone who has the maturity, drive and initiative to treat me, who I would want as my own physician?"
- **RAMBLING** is a pet peeve: The candidate who talks forever, but doesn’t say anything.
- **It’s okay to have some quiet pauses during your interview.** Thoughtfully considering a question before answering comes off much better than unfocused chatter.
- **Avoid giving extraordinarily long or short answers.**

- **They look for candidates to come across as professional** - open and personal, but not insincerely ingratiating.

E. Some Question Types & Few Examples

Opening/Personal Questions:
1. What would you like to tell me about yourself, as a way of introduction?
2. How did you become interested in medicine?

Stress Management:
1. What kind of events stress you out?
2. When you feel over-stressed, and you can't directly address the source, what kinds of activities help you manage stress?

Ethical Issues:
1. What would you do if you saw another student cheating on test in medical school, and why?
2. Can you tell me about a time you had to make a difficult decision, and how you went about making that decision?

Larger, Contextual Issues:
1. What are some of the main mandates in the Affordable Care Act? + what are some positive and negative effects
2. If you could change one behavior to help keep people healthy, what you choose and why? + follow-up how/public health kinds of questions

Closing Questions:
1. Is there anything else you would like us to about you as a candidate?
2. What questions do you have for us?

Find more questions & interview feedback here:
http://schools.studentdoctor.net

Questions?
For Pre-Med Interview Workshop Info, Email: premedicalinfo@ku.edu
Website: https://medadvising.ku.edu/applying-faq
To Schedule a mock interview: Visit https://career.ku.edu/

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