

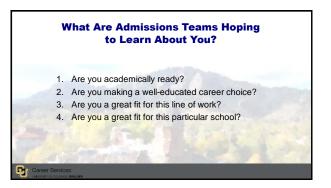
Part One:

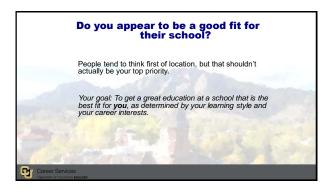
1. What are the interviewers hoping to learn about you?

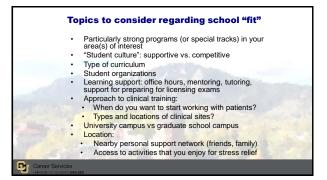
2. What types of questions are they likely to ask?

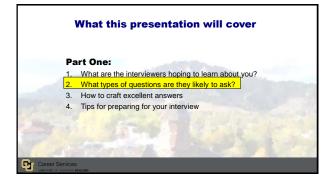
3. How to craft excellent answers

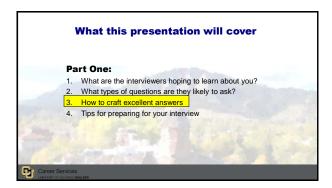
4. Tips for preparing for your interview



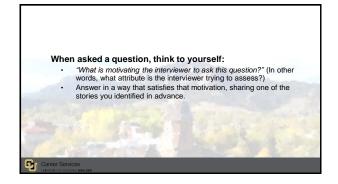












# A few more tips for answering interview questions

- Listen carefully to each question. Be sure to answer the question that was asked, not the question you expected to be asked.
- Most interviewees pause for a few seconds before answering, to gather their thoughts.
- Each answer should be about 2 to 3 minutes long.
- Be aware of your eye contact and body language.
- Answer the questions completely but concisely, and then stop talking. It's
  okay to have some silence in the room between questions.

Career Services

# A few more tips for answering interview questions

- Use professional language, not casual terms you would use with friends.
- If asked a question to which you do not know the answer, admit, "I don't know."
  - When applicable, you can also offer, "I do know more about \_\_\_\_.
     Would you like to discuss that?"
- Be sure to practice OUT LOUD ahead of time to make sure you can articulately explain/describe your experiences.

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### Try this:

"Tell me about a time when you had a challenging interaction with a patient. What was the situation, and how did you handle it?"

Make a bulleted list of the key elements you would like to cover in your response.

Career Services

#### Try this out loud:

"How do you know you want to be a [insert your desired profession here]?"

This question is intended to assess your knowledge of the profession and to give you a chance to explain why you think you will be a good fit for it.

Career Services

Tips for answering a few challenging interview questions

Career Services

#### Dealing with a couple of common concerns

Academic record: How to address poor grades?

- Acknowledge responsibility. Maturely explain what you've learned from the experience and how it has prepared you to be successful in professional school. Don't blame anyone else.
- · Emphasize upward trend since then.

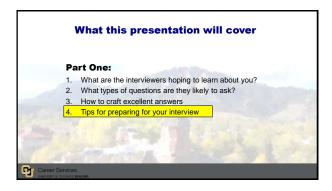
How to address personal issues (run-ins with law, difficult life experiences you have overcome)?

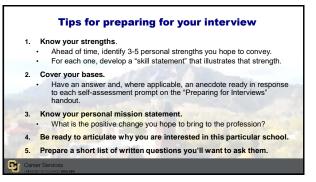
- difficult life experiences you have overcome)?

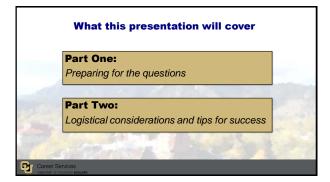
   Be prepared to discuss these issues
  - Demonstrate maturity, and discuss what you learned from the incident.

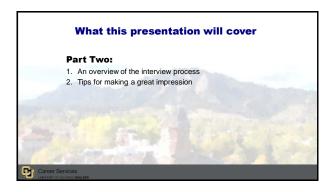
Career Services

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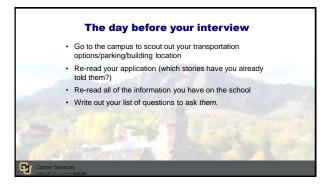
















#### A few tips on attire Clothing: · Pack your suit in your carry-on luggage · Bring extra shirt/tie/stockings You will need a professional-looking overcoat Comfortable, professional-looking shoes (lots of walking on tour) Hair (recent haircut, professionally styled, out of face) Portfolio holder or professional bag/conservative purse Water bottle, chapstick, small snack Note pad, list of your questions, pen · Cell phone Distracting jewelry Perfume/cologne

## **Making a Great Impression:** At the end of the interview

- Say "thank you" and express enthusiasm for that school by citing one or two specific reasons why it feels like a great fit.
- Ask for business cards (unless you've been directed to send all correspondence directly to the admissions office)
- Write a thank you letter or email: within a couple of days is best Indicate the date of the interview.

  - Thank them for their time.
- Infank them for their units.
   Bring up a topic from your discussion that was meaningful to you.
   If you were asked a question that stumped you, provide a thoughtful, organized response in writing.
   Reiterate your interest in the school and why you would be happy there.



#### What to start working on now, to prepare for your first interview

- 1. On Pre-Health Advising Website, read our Interview section
- 2. Read the interviewing chapters in Get Into Medical School!: A Guide for the Perplexed (2nd ed.), by Kenneth Iserson
- 3. Read The Premed Playbook: Guide to the Medical School Interview, by Ryan Gray (Kindle download on Amazon)
- Schedule a practice interview with a career counselor in
- 5. Participate in the next Pre-Health Practice Interview Event.