

COLLEGE & BS/MD INTERVIEW GUIDE

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Cracking College & BS/MD Admissions Interview Guide Table of Contents

About the Authors	3
From The Authors	5
Interview Preparation	6
Common College and BS/MD Interview Questions	7
Brainstorming Common Interview Questions	9
How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Tell Me About Yourself?"	9
How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Why Do You Want To Come To This University?"	. 13
How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Why Do You Want To Come To This Medical School?"	. 15
How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Can You Tell Me More About Activity."	. 16
How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Is There Anything Else You Want Me And The	
Admissions Committee To Know?"	17
What to Wear, What to Bring	. 19

About the Authors



Dr. Rachel Rizal grew up in Cerritos, California. She has always had a strong interest in healthcare and education. Since high school, Dr. Rizal has advised hundreds of individuals for college, graduate school, scholarship, and fellowship applications. In high school, she was inducted into USA Today's All USA High School Academic First Team for her international education work and was recognized as a Coca-Cola Scholar. She attended Princeton for college and graduated cum laude from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. At Princeton, she founded an organization called Health Matters, which creatively taught health education and brought medical resources to low-income families. After college, she pursued a Fulbright Fellowship where she led research and public health projects related to vaccinations and infectious diseases. During her Fulbright, she spearheaded a national HIV awareness campaign and worked with the World Health Organization on improving vaccination access. Dr. Rizal received her M.D. at Stanford. She started a health education program in Stanford's Emergency Department and continued her vaccination work by leading Flu Crew, an organization that distributes free flu immunizations. Dr. Rizal did her residency in Emergency Medicine at Harvard. She loves the unpredictable nature of the emergency room as well as the breadth of the acuity & patient cases! Dr. Rizal is active in the pre-med and medical school admissions community around the nation. She is a pre-med advisor at several universities and frequently gives talks about medical school admissions and interdisciplinary healthcare pursuits. She is living her dream by pursuing a career that integrates healthcare, innovation, teaching, and mentorship.

Contact Dr. Rachel Rizal at hello@bsmdadmit.com



About the Authors



Dr. Rishi P. Mediratta grew up in Portage, Michigan, and has lived and worked in London, Geneva, and Ethiopia, focusing on a wide range of public health issues. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University where he developed medical and public health programs focused on preventing child mortality. Dr. Mediratta's passion is designing and implementing sustainable programs. While living in Ethiopia, he founded the Ethiopian Orphan Health Foundation, a non-profit that provides community-based health care and education to vulnerable children. As a Marshall Scholar, he further examined the implications of delivering primary care services to children from an anthropological and a public health lens. Dr. Mediratta integrates his field experience and interdisciplinary background to create child health programs and policies; he has worked with policymakers at the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the Michigan Department of Community Health. Dr. Mediratta received his M.D. at Stanford Medical School where he continued to spearhead initiatives to improve population health, primary care opportunities, and global health. He completed his Pediatrics residency at Stanford and is a faculty member at Stanford University School of Medicine in Pediatrics and Global Health. He continues to do research and global health work. Dr. Mediratta is a selection committee member for several competitive scholarships and reviews research articles for various scientific journals.

Contact Dr. Rishi Mediratta at hello@bsmdadmit.com

From The Authors

Hello!

Thanks for downloading our College and BS MD Interview Guide. We are super excited for you! Because we know this is a tough process, we wanted to help aspiring physicians – like you – with their college interview preparation.

Our team has completed a multitude of college and medical school interviews ourselves. We experienced tough interview questions, and we went through several interview formats (group interviews; Multiple Mini Interviews; one-on-one traditional interviews). In fact, Dr. Rachel Rizal was in the first class of Stanford School of Medicine applicants who had a Multiple Mini Interview!

We have helped <u>thousands</u> of applicants with their college and scholarship interviews over the past 20 years. We actively interview high school students for competitive scholarships and college admissions.

What is our biggest piece of advice? Have a game plan about the activities and experiences YOU want to discuss during your interview. With a game plan, you'll be in more control of your interview and talk about what you want. This is your chance to shine and tell people what you are passionate about.

This Cracking BS MD Admissions Interview guide will give you the inside scoop on how we recommend preparing for interviews. If you want specific advice on how to prepare for individual colleges & BS/MD programs, read our <u>interview tips section</u> (https://bsmdadmit.com/category/interview-tips/) on the Cracking BS MD Admissions blog.

To schedule a mock interview, please email The Cracking BS MD Admissions team at <u>hello@bsmdadmit.com</u>.

If you have additional questions or need help with interviews, feel free to contact us at **hello@bsmdadmit.com**. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rachel Rizal and Dr. Rishi Mediratta hello@bsmdadmit.com



Interview Preparation

HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR INTERVIEWS?

Dr. Rizal: First, I brainstorm my answers to the most common interview questions. Then, I look at my specific application and prepare myself for questions about each activity. In order to answer "Why do you want to go to School X," I chat with current students to learn more about what it's like to go to that university. For example, after visiting Princeton, I knew that the school had many small, discussion-based seminars for students, even for freshmen. After visiting Brown, I loved the school's Open Curriculum and flexibility of majors.

Next, I do a ton of mock interviews with my friends, mentors, advisors, and family members using the list of questions presented later in this chapter. I usually practice with different types of friends (pre-meds and non-pre-meds) so I can receive different types of feedback. From our experiences, we know that practice makes perfect!

Keep reading our guide below for common college interview questions and common BS/MD interview questions! We'll teach you how to brainstorm the most common interview questions.

Dr. Mediratta: Read as much information as you can on the school's website. You will want to know about the curriculum, student opportunities, mentorship opportunities by faculty members, student groups, research opportunities, leadership opportunities, financial aid, and the culture of being a student. Before each interview, I identified aspects of the school that fit well with my application. During my interview, I mentioned examples of opportunities at the school that fit my background.

Talk to current medical students before, during, and after the interview. If you don't have any friends at the medical school you are interviewing at, call the admissions office and ask to be put in touch with current students. You can also cold-email current students through clubs you are interested in joining.

Be prepared with the logistics of the interview day. I like to look at a campus map to familiarize myself with the campus and where I have to be during the day. Make sure you have all the details about your interview and a point of contact at the admissions office in case something happens on the day of your interview.

Finally, I try to learn as much information as I can about my interviewers. It helps to read the bios of your interviewers before your interview. The point of researching your interviewers is to know more about them so you can create a personal connection and ask them personalized questions.

If you would like to schedule a mock interview with our team, please email us at hello@bsmdadmit.com.



COMMON COLLEGE AND BS/MD INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

What Are Common Interview Questions?

We compiled common college and BS/MD interview questions. We sorted them out into categories. Prioritize brainstorming and practicing these questions for your upcoming college and BS/MD interviews.

Common General Questions for College Interviews (including BS/MD programs):

You need EXCELLENT responses for these questions, and these should flow off the tip of your tongue with ease! If you want to STAND OUT, then the content of your responses has to be related to the strengths of your college application. In the next chapter of this Cracking BS MD Admissions interview guide, we give step-by-step guidance on how to answer these questions and sample responses.

- Tell me about yourself.
- What extracurricular activities are you involved in, and how have they shaped you?
- Tell me about _____ [Insert extra-curricular activity].
 - o What motivated you to pursue this activity?
 - o What did you learn from this activity?
- Why do you want to attend [Insert college]?
- Is there anything else I should know about your application and tell the admissions committee?

Keep reading below for a list of other college interview questions!

Common BS/MD Interview Questions:

- Why do you want to pursue a career in medicine?
- Why do you want to be a doctor and not a nurse or physician assistant or any other healthcare provider?
- Why do you want to go to a BS/MD program?
- Why do you want to attend this specific BS/MD program?
- What have been your patient experiences to date?
- What has been your most memorable or most influential clinical experience to date?
- What do you think are the qualities of an excellent physician?
- Can you discuss any research experiences you've had and how they relate to your interest in medicine?
- How do you plan to balance the rigorous demands of a BS/MD program with other aspects of your life?
- Tell me about a time when you faced a challenge and how you resolved it.



- What do you think are the current challenges and issues in healthcare, and how would you address them as a future physician?
- Pick one healthcare issue in our society today and discuss your thoughts about this healthcare issue. Do you have any ideas about how to solve or improve this issue?
- What do you think are the most significant advancements or trends in medicine today?
- What specialties or areas of medicine interest you the most, and why?

Other College Interview Questions

College interviews are open-ended. The interviewer can ask you questions based on your resume or any topics you bring up during your interview, so be prepared to talk about your extra-curricular activities

However, there are some common college interview questions that are frequently asked, and we think you should prepare for them!

Questions about College Life

- What academic subjects or areas interest you the most, and why?
- What do you hope to gain from your college experience?
- What are your long-term goals, and how does this college fit into those plans?
- How do you plan to contribute to the campus community?
- What role do you think diversity plays in a college community, and how have you contributed to diversity and inclusion in your life?
- What do you most look forward to in college?

Behavioral Questions

- Can you tell me about a time when you had to lead a team?
- Can you tell me about a time when you had to lead a team and faced a challenge?
- Describe a moment when you had to think critically and problem-solve.

Other Questions

- What was your favorite subject in high school?
- What books, articles, or pieces of art have had a significant impact on you?
- Who do you look up to and why?
- If you could have dinner with anyone dead or alive, who would it be and why?
- If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and why?



BRAINSTORMING COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Tell Me About Yourself?"

It is extremely important to note the activities that you want to talk about when you answer the question, "Can you tell me about yourself?" This is how you control the narrative of your interview.

It is also important that your "Tell me About Yourself" response has structure. Structuring your response provides a roadmap for your interviewer to follow as you lead them through a snippet of who you are with details. The structure below, along with the associated questions, can guide you in brainstorming your response to this open-ended question. Please note - you do not need to answer every single question in the framework; include information that helps the listener understand who you are.

To schedule a mock interview with our Cracking BS/MD Admissions teams, please take a look at our mock interview packages and email us at hello@bsmdadmit.com.

A WINNING FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONDING TO THE "TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF" QUESTION

Step #1: Introduce Yourself

- Questions to answer: What is your name? Where are you from?
- Why this is important: This might sound obvious, but >50% of students we do mock interviews with do not state their names when introducing themselves through "Tell me about yourself." It is important to say your first name, similar to meeting somebody for the first time. Stating your name is best practice for all professional & career interviews.

Step #2: Describe Your Background – But Keep It Brief

- Questions to answer: What is your family structure like and where did you grow up? What kind of upbringing did you have? Did you grow up in the United States? Did you move around a lot? Do you have siblings? How did you develop your interests and engage your curiosity early on? What values did you gain from your upbringing and your family? For BS/MD interviews, you can discuss if anyone in your family suffered from a medical condition and if that inspired you to explore medicine.
- Why this is important: Your personal background provides context on your upbringing to allow your interviewer to understand you better. Additionally, you will build personal connections with your interviewer.
- **Tips:** One common mistake that applicants make is that their responses for the background section are too long. Stick to what's important in your childhood and family and what is relevant for a medical career.



Step #3: Highlight Your Major Pursuits In High School

- Questions to answer: What are your biggest areas of interest (e.g. a type of scientific research, computer science, environmental protection efforts, etc.)? What motivated you to pursue/focus on these particular areas? Why did you choose these extra-curricular activities? What did you learn about yourself and what you did? How did your activities contribute to your desire to be scientifically inclined and dedicated to service for others?
- Why this is important: This section introduces how you have begun to develop your interests and shows your interviewer some of the depth of your passions.
- **Tip:** We don't want to hear a laundry list of activities, nor do we want a resume dump. Focus on your main activities and provide a little bit of detail about your motivation to pursue these activities as well as why these activities were meaningful to you. You can also talk about the impact of your activities on other individuals you serve or on your community.

Step #4: Describe Your Future Goals

This section is definitely important for BS/MD interviews but not always relevant for college interviews.

- Questions to answer for BS/MD applicants: What are you hoping to gain from being part of a BS/MD program and gaining early acceptance to medical school? How do you want to pursue your interests in college and medical school? What is the future impact that you hope to create in your career?
- Questions to answer for four-year college applicants: Do you have any career interests? If you have career interests, you can mention them here. If not, you can discuss what fields interest you the most or you can discuss potential majors in college.
- Why this is important: This section is the most important one and ties together many of the strings that you have introduced in previous steps into a coherent explanation of who you are and why you are seeking to pursue a BS/MD program. If you laid a solid foundation before this, your interviewer will find themselves nodding along as you describe how you believe practicing medicine aligns with your goals.
- **Tip:** You can receive bonus points if you can link what you are doing now to what you will be doing in that specific BS/MD program.

Step #5: Fun Facts

This section is optional, but it can help portray you as a well-rounded individual.

- **Questions to answer:** What are some of your hobbies? Any fun facts about yourself? What do you enjoy doing in your free time?
- Why this is important: You want to give the interviewer more information that he or she can relate to.
- **Tip:** This should be very short. We tell students to make this two sentences max. Do not make this a long section.



Step #6: Why You Are Excited To Attend University

Our team thinks it's helpful to end the response with 1-3 sentences about why you are excited about the school you are interviewing for.

- **Questions to answer:** What are you looking forward to in _____ University? Are there specific characteristics about the school that appeal to you? Is there something unique about the school culture?
- Why this is important: Ending with your excitement about the University allows the interviewer to know your excitement about the school and sets up the interview so the interviewer can ask you about your specific interests. This can also show off your knowledge and connections to the University.
- **Tip:** We think the best way to end your "tell me about yourself" response is to say that you are excited to be interviewing at the school. This should be very short.

Having an excellent, balanced, and robust "Tell me about yourself" response is tough. If you have questions or want to prepare your response with us, email Dr. Rachel Rizal and Dr. Rishi Mediratta at hello@bsmdadmit.com.

"TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF" EXAMPLE FOR 4-YEAR COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

NOTE: This example "Tell me about yourself" response is for students who are interested in science, premed, and healthcare, but who are interviewing at 4-year universities that do not have a BS/MD program.

Hi, my name is [_____]. I'm currently a senior at [_____] High School in San Diego, California.

I was born in Haiti and moved to the United States when I was 7 years old. I grew up as the eldest of 3 children in a Haitian-American family, the daughter of a nurse and a construction worker. As the eldest child, I was often relied on to look after my siblings, whether that was helping them with their homework or ensuring that they were eating well as my parents worked long shifts. I learned a lot about responsibility and resilience from an early age.

In high school, I became interested in Biology and History. I am fascinated with the human body, and I am also interested in how our modern-day society has been shaped by events in the past. I enjoyed the



interdisciplinary learning that my school cultivated, and I embraced that by writing my IB extended essay on the health effects tied to Caribbean colonization by the Spanish conquistadors. I believe that marrying my two passions of biology and history has deepened my understanding of medical history and how it affects healthcare delivery today.

I was also highly involved in clinical research and served as a research intern in a genetics lab at Northwestern studying the genetic elements of insulin production. I also enjoy teaching young girls about STEM through my Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Award projects, as well as competing in Science and History Bowls.

My research and teaching experiences will help me be an excellent academic clinician, and my broad academic interests will help me be a well-rounded physician who can relate to a variety of patients I will encounter.

Some of my hobbies include hiking any trail that I can find, reading philosophy and nonfiction literature, and playing jazz piano.

I'm excited to be interviewing here today because of the small, interdisciplinary classes. I will continue pursuing my interest in science and history as a Science in Human Culture major. I aim to deepen my knowledge of how history and social determinants of health shape medical care. I also plan to pursue additional community service work at the local homeless shelter to decrease healthcare disparities.

"TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF" EXAMPLE FOR BS/MD PROGRAMS

NOTE: This is for students who are applying to BS/MD programs.

Hi, my name is [_____]. I'm currently a senior at [_____] High School in New York, New York.

Starting in middle school, I became interested in scientific research, and how we could use research as a vehicle to create change. I initially conducted wet lab work, understanding how RNAi, or tiny molecules, could be used to silence genes, and eventually transitioned to clinical



research, where I worked to validate a non-invasive measure of heart function. It was there where I realized my passion for research that could improve clinical care outcomes.

After shadowing and volunteering at hospitals, my interest in medicine deepened alongside my growing interest in Philosophy. At the hospital, I saw ethical issues, and I became interested in end-of-life issues. For the IB extended essay paper, I wrote about end-of-life issues for Alzheimer's patients and their families. I developed a sense of the weight of ethical responsibility faced by those in the healthcare field. As a BS/MD student and future doctor, I am eager to help patients and their families navigate end-of-life issues.

Other than medicine, I am passionate about community service and enjoyed teaching young girls about nutrition through my Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Award projects.

I am specifically interested in a BS/MD program because I will be able to continue research related to geriatric care. I aspire to do Alzheimer's research with Dr. R at the School of Medicine. I hope my research will one day help families who have loved ones with Alzheimer's.

I am excited to be interviewing here today because of the BS/MD program's flexibility to study humanities while also doing my pre-med requirements. I aspire to continue pursuing my interests as a Philosophy & Biology double major at University.

How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Why Do You Want To Come To This **University?**"

Preparation: College is your first step in a BS/MD program, so interviewers will expect you to have some nuance to your answers. You do not want to just look at the BS/MD program's main admissions page. Interviewers will want to know how you will actively contribute to the college community, and what opportunities you will take advantage of that will make you a better physician in the future.

To give you some guidance, research what's unique about the school's curriculum, culture, location, and opportunities. Is there anything unique about the university's curriculum? For example, are there specific Honors College classes that you want to take? Any specific majors that you are interested in?



Look at the school's academic requirements. Are they flexible (e.g. Brown's open curriculum) or are they more stringent (e.g. Columbia's Core curriculum)? Look at the courses required for your major. What excites you? What additional majors/minors interest you? You want to be able to speak to what you would like to major in as well as other types of classes you'd like to take and why. The "why" can tie back to how this will make you a better physician in the future.

Paint a picture of how you will take advantage of the opportunities and resources at the school. These may include extra-curricular activities, research projects, and other graduate degrees available (e.g. MD/MBA, MD/MA). For instance, if you have an interest in public health, you might consider a medical school's MD/MPH program should they offer one, which will allow you to receive an MD and a Master's in Public Health in four years.

Many premeds in BS/MD programs pursue research as an undergrad or medical school student or both. It's important to think about professors you may want to do research under (they can be medical school professors, as mentioned earlier!), student organizations you may want to partake in, or activities you want to engage in (e.g. study abroad, specific funding/grant opportunities).

By actively describing your plans and interests, you will show the interviewer that you have thought hard about why you applied to that specific BS/MD program and are thinking long-term not only about the opportunities you'll get in college, but also the opportunities in medical school.

"WHY THIS COLLEGE" EXAMPLE RESPONSE

There are a few things that draw me to Northwestern, where I want to take diverse classes while pursuing innovative healthcare opportunities.

Academically, I appreciate the distribution requirements, which will allow me to take a broad range of classes. These classes will complement my intended major of Philosophy, where I want to explore more about bioethics.

As someone who founded a tutoring initiative in high school, I'd love the opportunity to design activities as a curriculum specialist at Supplies for Dreams, a student-run nonprofit that supports the career exploration of middle school students from underprivileged backgrounds. I'd also love to hone my ability to be a change agent in the club by obtaining the Leadership Certificate and taking leadership coaching classes.

I'm also passionate about entrepreneurship and solving needs that arise. I hope to take my learnings from Supplies for Dreams and my classes to



come up with a startup idea through the Garage, and its Jumpstart accelerator program.

Finally, I appreciate the residential college housing system, and hope to join Ayers, for students interested in business, to have a built-in community right when I arrive on campus. Hopefully, I'll be able to invite a few of them to my acapella performances too.

They say "AND is in our DNA" at Northwestern, and I think through all these activities, I can become a well-rounded, well-equipped leader to drive entrepreneurial and social change in the future.

How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Why Do You Want To Come To This Medical School?"

Preparation: Even though medical school may seem far away, it's important to do your research about the medical school attached to the BS/MD program. Don't just look at the homepage of the medical school website. Medical school admissions committees will want to know how you will be active and contribute to the medical school.

Here are some specific opportunities you can look for:

- Look at the medical school's curriculum. What are some key elements that they emphasize that you may want to take advantage of? You can think about preparing for this question similarly to how you might tackle the "Why this BS MD program?" essay question, which you can read more about here. It is important to talk about the **clinical curriculum** and not the pre-clinical curriculum.
- What clinical opportunities, including shadowing, volunteering, and community service, do you want to participate in during college and medical school?
- Think about professors you may want to do research with during college and medical school. College students in BS/ MD programs often have mentors (including research mentors) at the medical school.
- Finally, look into medical school student organizations you may want to partake in. How are these organizations related to your interests? How will these organizations make you a better physician who will improve healthcare?

This is an important question that you can prepare through mock interviews with our <u>Cracking BS MD Admissions interview team!</u>

"WHY THIS MEDICAL SCHOOL" EXAMPLE RESPONSE

I am particularly excited about Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine for three key reasons: (1) its focus on evidence-based medicine



and research, (2) its dual degree programs, and (3) its longitudinal primary care experiences.

First, I think the caliber of research at Feinberg is outstanding. As someone who built a nonprofit in college and has a passion for community health, I'm interested in working under Dr. Lynn Yee, in Feinberg's AOSC program, to learn implementation science methods that can guide the development of patient navigation and other community health programs. I appreciate the curriculum's medical decision-making thread, which will equip me with the skills to analyze medical literature, and I can apply them in a research and clinical setting.

Second, I've always had an avid interest in creating systems-level health change, so Feinberg's MD/MBA option is extremely appealing to me to further this interest. I hope to also join Second Opinions to help free clinics like Erie Family Health Center solve systemic issues.

Finally, I appreciate Feinberg's ECMH (Education Centered Medical Home) program and the ability to care for the same patients throughout the four years of my medical school career. Having early exposure to clinical care and continuity will help me hone my skills early, as well as provide better care to patients over time.

How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Can You Tell Me More About _____ Activity."

<u>Preparation:</u> Have a short answer and a long answer prepared for each of your activities. The length of your answer will depend on how much you want to emphasize this particular activity, the position of this question in your interview (whether the question is at the end of your interview or whether the questions is at the beginning of your interview), and what you've already talked about. Be able to give a brief 30-second to 1-minute description of each of your major extra-curricular activities. Additionally, be able to also give a longer explanation of each of your extra-curricular activities that includes examples of your impact, specific details of your work, and leadership.

Questions about your extracurricular activities during interview day allow the interviewer to learn more about how you spend your time and what excites you. Sound excited and enthusiastic!

When you talk about your extra-curricular activity, a common mistake we see students make is that they talk too much about the organization and not enough about what they did in the organization. Make sure you talk enough about what you did.



For each extra-curricular activity, you should include:

- 1) A strong topic sentence about the activity you are talking about
- 2) (If applicable) 1-2 sentences about the context of the activity: What motivated you? Did you work with anyone? Was this part of school or another organization? Did you hold any leadership positions?
- 3) A description of what you did in the activity. Again, don't forget to say the impact you had! This is the most important section.
- 4) What you learned from the activity. This is important to include.
- 5) (If applicable) How the activity relates to medicine or what you want to pursue in college

Specific tips about discussing your research experiences:

If you conducted research during high school, then your college interviewer can ask you more questions about your research. Make sure you can explain your research to an individual who has no background in your field. The Admissions Committee will gauge whether you can clearly communicate ideas.

In addition to asking you about the research description, the interviewer can ask you:

- What motivated you to do that type of research?
- What did you learn?
- How is this related to the medical field?

How Should I Prepare My Answer To "Is There Anything Else You Want Me And The Admissions Committee To Know?"

Throughout the interview, you should be situationally aware of what topics you've had the chance to talk about or not had the chance to talk about. For example, say that two things you want to highlight are 1) your interests in community health and 2) your interest in primary care. And, a few of your activities that support these two interests include: shadowing a family medicine doctor, working with a mobile clinic in Mexico where you taught patients about diabetes, and your public health research. If you did not talk about either community health or



primary care during your interview, then the "anything else" question is the perfect time to talk about these activities!

But, what if you already talked about the main things that you wanted to?

Be able to re-iterate in a less than 30-second pitch about what you would be a great fit for the university!

"IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO ADD?" EXAMPLE RESPONSE

I would like to reiterate how excited I am about Brown's PLME program. I will thrive in Brown's flexible and interdisciplinary environment as I pursue History and Biology. Furthermore, Brown's culture of giving back to its community excites me, and I want to work with senior homes to gain exposure to elderly care. I will work to innovate and improve geriatric care throughout my time as a college and medical school student.

WHAT TO WEAR, WHAT TO BRING

WHAT DO I WEAR TO THE INTERVIEW?

We all believe that you should dress to impress during your interviews, even if the interview is virtual.

TIP: Do we believe in wearing traditional colors?

Nope. In fact, we like wearing non-traditional colors like baby pink or lavender so we don't look like everyone else!

For guys: Wear slacks and a nicely pressed dress shirt. We also recommend wearing a tie. A suit blazer is optional, and interviewees usually wear one in cold weather.

For girls: There is more leeway to what girls can wear to an interview. Girls can wear a suit and skirt or a suit and slacks. The top can also range from a nice tank top, blouse, or dress shirt. Jewelry and accessories are a nice touch, but don't go overboard. Be conservative with your jewelry and nail polish. We wouldn't recommend wearing neon pink nail polish.

TIP: Comfortable Shoes during Interviews

At some schools, you walk around a lot. So, invest in very comfortable, but formal, shoes!

SHOULD I BRING ANYTHING ELSE TO THE INTERVIEW?

If you are meeting your interviewer in-person, it's always good to bring an interview folder with two pens (in case you lose one) and paper. Additionally, bring a bottle of water and cash to pay for coffee or food.



The views and opinions expressed in this book are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of Stanford University or other organizations.