

Interview Guidelines for MD Admissions Committee

General Recommendations:

1. Provide an environment that is private and free from interruptions.
2. Stay on schedule. Interviews are 30 minutes.
3. Ask open-ended questions.
4. Balance the interview to include approximately 20 minutes of questions from you and 10 minutes of information about Brown and questions from the applicant.
5. Do not tell the applicant that he/she will be, or is likely to be, admitted.
6. Do not make specific references to contents of the Letters of Recommendation. These are confidential documents and cannot be quoted or referred to during the interview.
7. Avoid questions regarding:
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Religion
 - Marital status
 - Spouse's job or income
 - Pregnancy
 - Numbers/ages of children
 - Child care arrangements
 - Citizenship or national origin
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Birthplace
 - Handicap or disability*
 - Accommodations*

* Brown's policies regarding the technical abilities and skills necessary to meet the competency requirements are included with the letter of admission, and students are asked at that time to contact the school's Learning and Accessibility Specialist if they have any concerns about their ability to meet these standards.

Sample Questions

In general, ask some basic questions to put the applicant at ease, but focus on open-ended and challenging questions that will encourage dialogue. Some examples follow.

1. Thinking back over the past few years, what is one experience you have had that influenced or changed your life in a significant way?
2. The practice of medicine is changing rapidly and, as a physician, you will be involved in this evolution. How do you see those changes affecting your role in the practice of medicine?
3. How will you contribute to the student body at AMS?
4. What are your expectations for what Brown will offer you as a medical student, and a future physician?
5. Tell me something about yourself that I would not know from your application.
6. What are you passionate about? What is the last novel that you read? Why did you like/dislike it?
7. What characteristics distinguish you from other highly qualified candidates?
8. Ask about their goals while in medical school, e.g., research interests and additional degree programs, such as the MPH.
9. Ask questions to ascertain their interest level in Brown. It is okay to be direct: "Why do you (a native Californian/Hawaiian/Southerner) want to attend AMS?"