

# Tips for a Successful Health Professions School Interview

## Before the Interview

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**Use capital and lowercase letters in your application and emails.**  
Yes, there are people who don't do this. Don't be one of them.

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**Edit your emails to the school well.**  
Be sure you do not write the wrong school name in an email. Slow down and read before you hit send.

**Do not use the same essay for every supplemental application.**

Write each essay specific to that school, highlighting why you would be a good fit. That requires you to know a lot about that school to which you just applied.

**Be kind, professional and appreciative when talking to anyone from the school.**

Being rude or hasty on the phone is not okay under any circumstance. They will make note in your application (your name will most likely appear on their caller ID).

**If the school asks for a photo, send a nice, professional photo.**

Put on a suit jacket and stand in front of a solid background. Schools are not looking for creativity, just what you look like.



**Follow every school's procedures.**  
Do not ask for a deadline extension. If you missed their deadline, apply the next year.

## The Day of the Interview



**Get to the location of your interview extra early.**

Give yourself to find parking, deal with luggage and use the restroom. Be early enough so you can sit, have a coffee and take a deep breath before the day starts.



**Come up with questions.**

Questions indicate interest, and you should be interested. Be sure to ask the right questions to the appropriate individuals.

**You are always on. Always.**

From the moment you walk on campus, you are being judged. Be careful about what you say everywhere.

**Maintain eye contact.**

If you struggle with eye contact, practice a lot before your interview.



**Shake hands with everyone you meet.**

Assistants have a lot of power in offices. Being rude or hasty is never okay. Make the best first impression you can.



**Put your phone away and talk to people around you.**

Jumping on your phone when in a social situation may send the message that you do not prefer to talk to people, which is not the image you want to portray at a school interview.

**Be flexible.**

If the day doesn't go exactly as planned (an interviewer is late or doesn't show), it's okay. If you become overly stressed by an unplanned event, you are letting the admissions staff know how you handle stress.

## After the Interview



**Follow directions when it comes to follow-up communication.**

If they tell you they do not want thank you notes, do not send thank you notes. Most schools will be very clear how they want you to proceed. Listen to them.

**Know which schools allow updates.**

If they allow updates, space your updates to avoid sending multiple messages in one month. Spread your communication out to remain consistent but not overwhelming.