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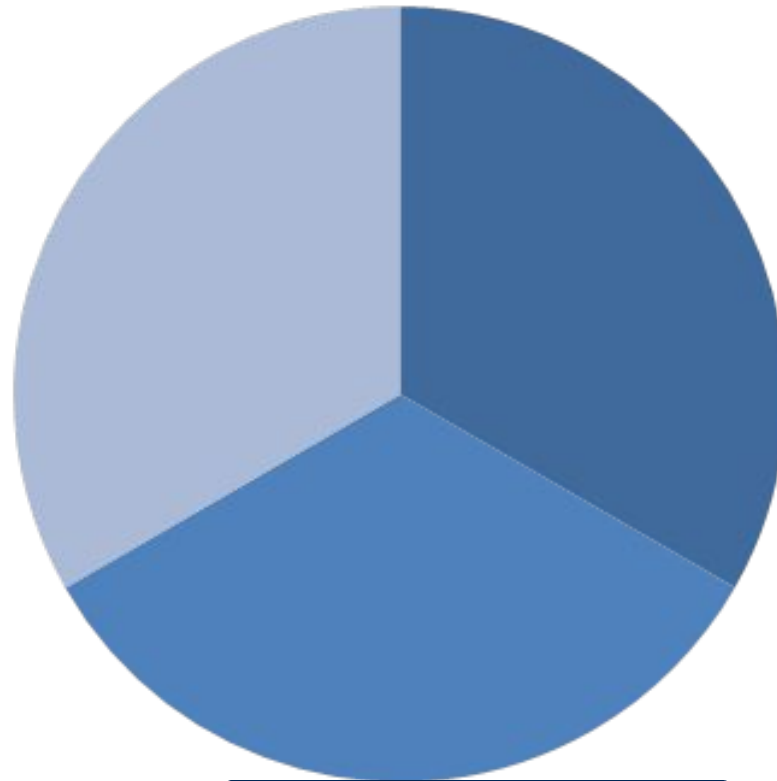


Preparing for Vet School Interviews

UC DAVIS

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING

JOANNE SNAPP



■ Experiences ■ Attributes ■ Metrics



COMMON INTERVIEW TYPES

- One-on-one
(Traditional)

vs

- Multiple Mini-Interview
(MMI)

vs

Panel



ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWING

- **Traditionally: To get to know you!**
- **Behavioral Interviewing: A premise that a person's past performance is the best predictor of future performance.**
- **May ask for "real life" examples of how applicants behaved in situations relating to the questions.**
- **The interviewer wants to know how you handled a situation, rather than just gathering information about you.**



THREE QUESTIONS TO BE
WELL PREPARED FOR:

TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF

WHY VET MED?

WHY US?



COMMON ATTRIBUTES

- Interpersonal Skills
 - Decision Making
 - Initiative/Leadership
 - Integrity/Honesty
 - Flexibility/Adaptability
 - Communication Skills
 - Professionalism
- 

HOW TO PREPARE

- **Reflect on past experiences. Journal.**
- **Think about how your stories reveal certain attributes. Tell stories outloud.**
- **Identify behaviors, tasks and decisions you made that highlight desired attributes.**
- **Analyze the outcome or results of the your decisions and parallel with vet med.**
- **If unclear about a question, ask to repeat**
- **Be prepared to sit quietly and think before speaking.**
- **Be prepared for follow-up questions**



MULTIPLE MINI-INTERVIEW (MMI)

- **Consists of 6-10 timed stations, usually 8-10 minutes each.**
- **At each station, the applicant is presented with a question, scenario or task.**
- **Instructions may be posted outside the room and the applicant is given 2 min. to read the instructions prior to entering. Typically, 6-8 min. are given to complete the station before moving to the next one.**



VET SCHOOLS USING MMI

- **Michigan State**
- **UC Davis**
- **Oregon State**
- **Texas A&M**
- **Virginia-Maryland**



TYPES OF STATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

- **Ethical dilemmas or questions about policy or social issues**
- **Scenarios with an actor (SJT)**
- **Standard interview questions**
- **Teamwork tasks/Group Activity**
- **Debate**
- **Essay writing**
- **Rest station**



Example of Traditional

What is your greatest weakness?

Example of SJT

If you have the choice of giving a transplant to a successful elderly member of the community and a 20-year-old drug addict – how do you choose?

Example of MMI

You are told that you are entering a hospital staff room 10 prior to performing surgery with Dr 'X'. As you enter, you see Dr 'X' take a swig of a clear drink from a bottle and quickly close their locker, which you suspect is alcohol. Over the course of the conversation, the Dr begins to forget things and slur their words.

You have 5 minutes to speak to Dr 'X'.



Situational Judgement Test

- The SJT is a standardized test that presents a series of hypothetical scenarios and asks participants how they would respond or behave in a particular situation.
- Now, many schools integrate SJTs into MMIs disguised as “Scenarios”. Still the same concept: They put you in a situation, test your reasoning, critical thinking and ability to stay calm.



Common Tips

- **Know the School**
- **Know your application**
- **Learn the area/campus**
- **Come with good questions**
- **Dress Appropriately**
- **Be “On” all day**
- **Put your phone away**
- **Maintain eye contact**
- **Focus on the positive/yourself**

Dress Appropriately

- Suit. Hemmed/Pressed
- Socks/Hosiery
- Shoes
- Jewelry
- Limit Perfume/Cologne
- Nail Polish
- Color is ok
- Making a statement



FUN QUESTIONS

What is the best idea that you have ever come up with and how did you apply it?

Describe a situation where you were working in a team, and some of the members disagreed with you. How did you handle that?

Describe a situation where you had to overcome a problem or obstacle in order to move forward. What did you do?

Tell me about a specific time when you had to handle a tough problem which challenged your sense of fairness or ethics?



QUESTIONS

