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Preparing for Vet School Interviews
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 out loud.
• 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 beings to forget things and slur their words.
You have 5 minutes to speak to Dr ‘X’.
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