

SAMPLE OF POSSIBLE QUESTIONS ASKED AT A DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW

Personal Background

- Tell me about you.
- Are there any dentists in your family? How have they influenced your decision to become a dentist?
- How do you relax?
- What do you do in your spare time?
- If I asked your peers to describe you, what do you think they would say?
- How would your professors, internship supervisors and employers describe you?
- What motivates you?
- What was the most difficult decision you ever had to make? How did you reach such a decision?
- What is your biggest mistake/failure and what did you learn from it?
- What do you consider to be your greatest asset?
- What is your greatest weakness? What have you done so far to try to improve in this area?

Educational Background

- What was your favorite class in college?
- Have you ever been involved in research?
- Why did you decide to be a _____ major? How do you think your major prepared you for dental school?

Career Planning

- Why are you interested in dentistry?
- How do you know that dentistry is a good career choice for you?
- Why have you selected dentistry over other health care fields?
- Why did you apply to this school?
- What do you see yourself doing ten years from now, professionally, personally, etc.?
- What would you do if you were not accepted to dental school?
- Did you ever consider going into medicine?
- What have you done to improve upon your manual dexterity?

Dentistry As A Profession

- How would you describe the "ideal" dentist?
- What is your understanding of a typical day for a dentist?
- What concerns do you have about becoming a dentist?
- How would you feel about working for a health maintenance organization?
- What appeals the most to you about being a dentist?

Health Care Environment

- What do you think is the impact of insurance regulations, threats of malpractice, etc. on the dental profession?
- How do you think managed care is going to affect your future as a dental student and as a dentist?
- To what extent do you think the Government should get involved with health care? Why?
- Do you think there are enough dentists in our communities?

Ethics

- If the U.S. was to adopt socialized medicine, how do you think it would affect the quality of health care?
- Do you think that HIV positive dentists should be allowed to practice?
- Do you think that expensive dental procedures should be suspended for elderly people? If yes, when and why?
- Is it fair for insurance agencies to discriminate between smokers and non-smokers? Why?

Hypothetical Scenarios

- Do you think you would learn well in a small group setting? Explain.
- What would you change about your academic record and why?
- If could choose anyone, who would you want to sit next to in an airplane (at a dinner table, etc.)?
- If you could choose anyone, who would you *not* want to sit next to in an airplane (at a dinner table, etc.)?
- If it were in your power, would you change the clinical portion of the boards to allow students to work on mannequins rather than patients?
- If a dental patient could not afford to pay 100% for his dentures, would you reduce the cost or offer it to him for free?
- How would you react if a patient asked you to extract all her teeth?

Sample Questions For You To Ask!

- What is the greatest strength of your program?
- In your opinion, what areas of your program could be enhanced?
- How are these issues being currently addressed?
- How soon may I expect to engage in patient contact?
- What kinds of research opportunities are available at your school?
- How would you describe the campus atmosphere?
- What can you tell me about the school's philosophy?
- How would you describe a typical entering class (backgrounds, age, etc.)?
- What is the attrition rate at your institution and on what grounds?
- How successful are your students in entering graduate programs and residencies?
- What kinds of alumni/ae connections do exist for assistance with employment issues?