Frequently Asked Questions
During A Dental School Interview

Interviewers may be faculty members (dentists or biomedical researchers), dental students, administrators, or sometimes alumni of the dental school who interview you in their own office. Usually personal matters are off-limits and often may not be legally asked, but occasionally, they will be asked.

Rather than being asked questions about yourself, you may be asked to respond to questions on bioethics with hypothetical situations described and you respond as to how to deal with them. There are no correct answers to these kinds of questions, but you are expected to be able to respond clearly and thoughtfully, and to continue to do so if the questioner presses you beyond your first response. The fact is, that you have, presumably, already been thinking about the moral dilemmas and ethical questions that dentists face and that you personally will face if you become a dentist. The kind of reading you should have done because of your interest in dentistry, whether in newspapers, dental journals, novels, nonfiction material, or other sources, will be useful to you, as will the discussions you have probably had in classes and with friends and family over the years.

One question is very commonly asked these days at the beginning of an interview:

Tell me about yourself-I haven't read anything about you! (Think about this ahead of time and how you will choose to describe yourself). When you describe yourself include information about your experiences, academics, as well as the social aspect of your life (e.g. hobbies).

It is recommended that you have some of your own questions for the interviewers.

Questions/Topics Often Discussed/Observed

- Why do you want to become a dentist?
- What kind of dentistry might interest you?
- What experiences stirred your interest in dentistry?
- Why are you applying to this school?
- Is it your first choice? If not, where does it come on your list?
- Do you like this city?
- Are any of your relatives dentists? If so, where did they go to school?
- How would you rate your ability with your hands on a scale of 1-10? Why?
- At what age were you first aware that you have good manual dexterity?
- Why did you take the DAT only once (if so)?
- If there are weak areas in your DAT scores, interviewers may ask about them.
- Do you have any questions? (It is a good idea to have some ready).
- Have you had any practical experience in dentistry?
- What other work experience have you had?
- To which other schools are you applying?
- How do you plan to pay for dental school and living expenses?
- Why dental, rather than medical school?
- What if you had a patient who did not pay?
- What is your opinion of National Health Insurance?
- Do you like people? Are there any your dislike? Why?
- What negative things have you heard about dentistry?
- Do you get depressed? If so, how do you deal with it?
- What kinds of interpersonal relationships do you have?
- Do you have a girl/boy friend? (This is not a legal question)
- Occupations of brothers or sisters, if any.
- Extracurricular activities.
- Why did you choose your undergraduate major?
- Religious beliefs, if any, may be probed. (this is not legal)
- What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of your personality?
- Political attitudes about dentistry, government, etc.
- How might you calm a nervous patient?

There are chalk-carving, clay modeling and coordination tests at some schools. They may tell you about them and how to practice ahead of time.

Tough Questions per studentdoctor.net

- What part of your dental shadowing experience really "wow"ed you?
- Do you not think you will be prepared well enough after going through our program?
• What if you failed an exam in dental school?
• Name one time you experienced failure and how you dealt with it.
• What have you done to show your hand dexterity?
• If you were accepted to all the schools you applied to, which would you choose?
• How do you feel about treating an HIV positive patient?
• When was the last time you got in trouble?
• How are you going to save the world?
• What are the strengths and weaknesses of (insert school name)?