

## UoP Interview Workshop

- I. Questions to Consider: Will this applicant be a successful dentist? Dental student?
- II. At UoP, the admissions committee does a holistic review of the applicant.
  - a. Non-academic factors: Letters of Recommendation, Personal Statement, Extracurricular activities, Leadership experience, Dental experience, Manual dexterity
  - b. Academic factors: Coursework, DAT scores, is the course load taken sufficient, GPA
- III. UoP Interview:
  - a. 1:1 – 1 faculty to 1 applicant
  - b. Open file, meaning your application will be open to the faculty member interviewing you
  - c. 1 hour long
  - d. Conversational
  - e. Not a panel interview
  - f. Not a “blind” interview
- IV. Tips
  - a. Communication: should be speaking with clarity, commitment, interest, comfort, and confidence (but not to the point where you *sound* like you’re rehearsed, even if you have), the flow should be natural
    - i. In recent cycles, maturity has been a factor in that many applicants were turned away or put on the lower end of the wait list due to their maturity level depicted from the interview.
    - ii. Articulate, don’t ramble
    - iii. You can ask to have questions repeated.
    - iv. Brief pausing to collect your thoughts is OK.
    - v. Speak at a conversational pace (relax!).
    - vi. Be aware of your body language (e.g., crossing your arms is usually seen negatively) and the eye contact you give (engage your interviewer)
  - b. You are the message! Not just by what you say, but *how* you say it (with your eyes, facial expressions, body movements, message behind your words, sense of humor)
  - c. Appearance
    - i. Men: Suit with matching trousers and matching socks
    - ii. Women: Suit or tailored skirt (don’t go above the knees), stockings, short heels are fine, natural make-up, hair up or down is fine – but keep it tidy
    - iii. Good hygiene! Be sure to brush your teeth! No perfume or cologne is suggested. If you can’t go without it, have someone check with you so that it isn’t overpowering.
  - d. NO PHONES! Avoid using them at all costs.

- e. Timeliness
  - i. BE ON TIME!
    - 1. 30 minutes before = early
    - 2. 15 minutes before = on time
    - 3. Scheduled time = LATE
- f. Know yourself
  - i. What sparked your interest in dentistry?
  - ii. What can you contribute to the profession?
  - iii. Why this school? (NOTE: KNOW THE SCHOOL YOU'RE INTERVIEWING AT!)
    - 1. How will this program help you achieve your goal?
  - iv. Be honest in your self-assessment.
  - v. What solidified your motivation to pursue a career in dentistry?
- g. Some common questions...
  - i. How do you handle conflict?
  - ii. How do you deal with stress?
  - iii. What would you do if you see someone cheating?
  - iv. What will you do if you're not accepted by your top choice schools? By any school?
  - v. Tell me about your role models.
  - vi. Tell me about your biggest failure, and how did you react?
  - vii. What outstanding characteristic will you bring to the class?