



Yeshiva University

THE SHEVET GLAUBACH CENTER FOR CAREER STRATEGY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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How to Ace the
Medical/Dental/Graduate School
Interview



Today's Objective:

Discuss steps to take before, during
and after an interview to increase
chances of gaining admission.



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Before the Interview: Preparation is Key!





First Steps:

- **Know Logistics**
- **Research the School**
- **Dress to Impress**
- **What to Bring to Interview**



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The Interview



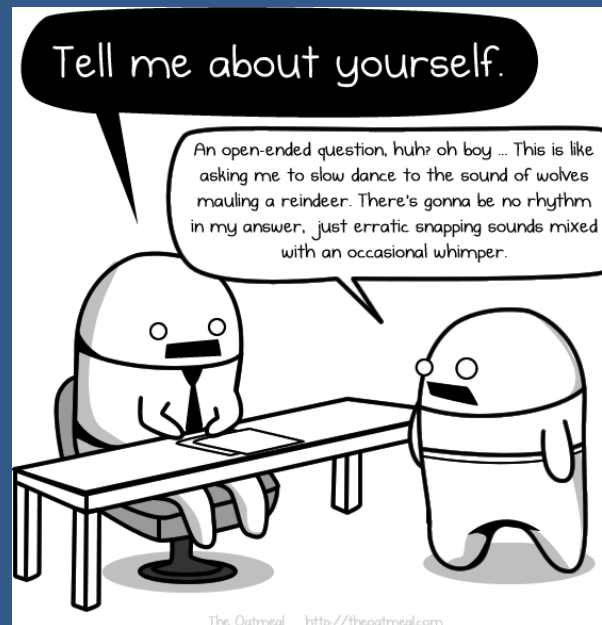


During Interview:

- **Manage Anxiety**
- **First Impressions: Non-Verbal Communication**



“Tell Me About Yourself...”



How on earth do you answer that?



The Personal Pitch: A Mini “Infomercial” about You

Your personal pitch should include the most important and relevant information you want the interviewer to know:

- Name
- Educational background
- Why want to be a physician (briefly)
- Qualifications and accomplishments (experience)
- Why you specifically want to attend that school



Anticipate Common Questions About:

- Your motivation
- Your traits: strengths/weaknesses
- Your education / grades / test scores
- Your experience (anything on the application)
- Ethical situations
- Your knowledge of the school
- What you can bring to the class
- Your potential career trajectory—if you have an idea
- Your knowledge of healthcare issues
- Other (personal/hypothetical)



Inappropriate Questions/Situations...

- Personal attacks
- Religious topics
- Irrelevant questions

...and Strategies to Deal with Them

- Stay calm
- Deflect back to interviewer
- Try to determine underlying motivation
- Inform the premed office immediately if this happens



Anecdotes:

- Review your past accomplishments and memorize 4-5 specific examples that demonstrate your abilities
- Be memorable (in a good way)
- Use the specific examples to answer questions
- Your responsibility to highlight experiences (even if not asked directly)



Common Pitfalls:

- Stating that a school is back-up/not a top choice
- Speaking negatively about someone: faculty, advisor, etc.
- Jewish or Hebrew lingo
- Giving vague or generic answers
- Not recalling an experience they ask about (from your application)
- Assuming they've read (and recall) all aspects of application
- Being long-winded or too brief
- Launching into answers before thinking about response
- Poor volume/energy/tone
- Ending a response
- Failing to demonstrate understanding of school life (naivety)



End of Interview

“Do you have any questions for me?”

Your answer should always be YES!



Sample Questions:

- “I heard from a current student that you are currently reviewing your curriculum to add some courses focused on integrated medicine. Do you know when these will be implemented?”
- “What new/recent research opportunities might there be for first or second-year students?”

What other types of questions can you think of?

Any plans for changing schedules for when students sit for USMLE Part I and II? Do you anticipate the P/NP of USMLE Part I changing your curriculum?



Closing the Interview:

- Be enthusiastic and energetic to the end
- Let the interviewer(s) know that you want to attend his/her school
- Shake the interviewers' hands and thank them for considering you
- Ask for interviewers' contact information
- SMILE!



After the Interview:

- Review what happened and keep a journal
- Let the YU Premed Office and SGC (Career Center) know how it went and what was asked on the interview
- Write a thank you letter (within 24 hours)!



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ALTUS SUITE

CASPER

Online, open-response situational judgment test (SJT). It asks what you would do in a tough situation, and more importantly, why. This helps determine behavioral tendencies of applicants pursuing people-centered professions.

<https://takealtus.com/casper/>

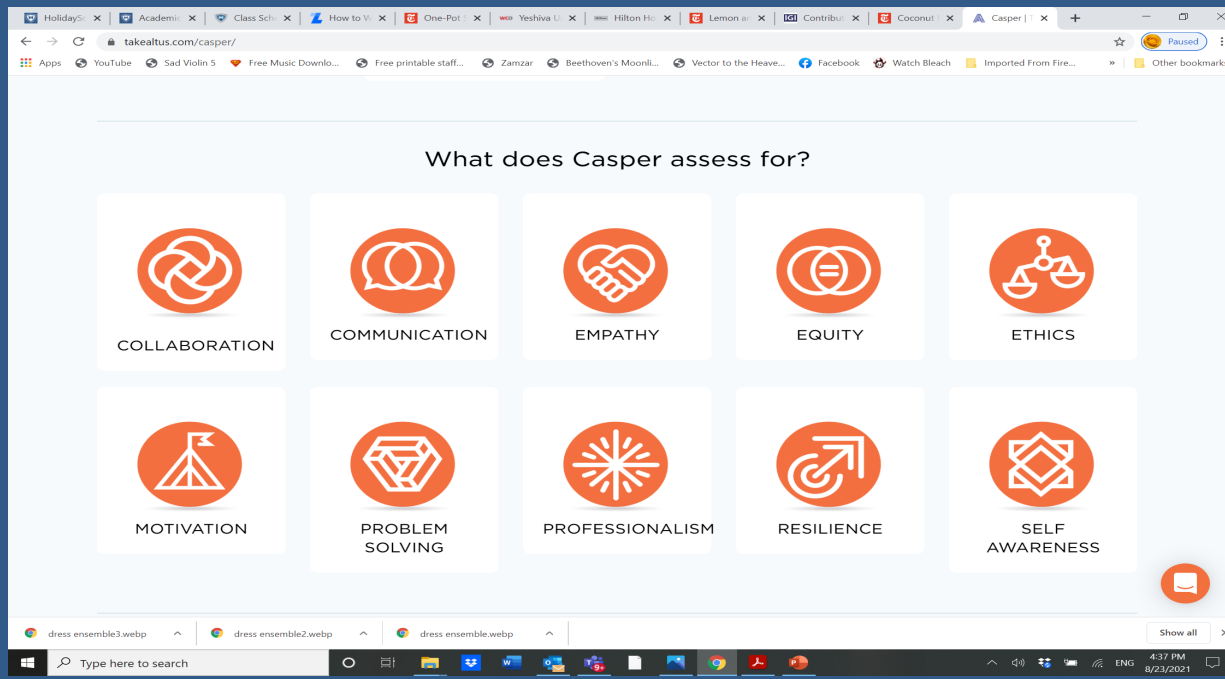


ALTUS SUITE, Continued

SNAPSHOT <https://takealtus.com/Snapshot/>

Snapshot is a short, one-way video interview. It is made up of three interview-style questions, with two minutes to respond to each. There is no human interviewer—you talk to the computer!

- Designed to help medical schools assess applicants' pre-professional competencies
- Provide admissions officers with information about your journey to medical school
- Every video interview will assess the same general domains, but specific questions asked may differ.





Questions designed to be unrelated to medical experience; so, lack of medical-related experience not impact your ability to answer

Personal experience--describe your journey and/or the experiences that led you to pursue a career in medicine.

Sample: Why did you decide to pursue a career in medicine?

Past behavior questions---describe previous experiences that demonstrate your level of knowledge and skills related to the various competencies.

Sample: Describe a time when you experienced a conflict with a classmate or a coworker. What did you do? What was the outcome?



DUET

- Duet is a value-alignment assessment that compares what you value in a program with what the program has to offer. With Duet, your individual preferences are compared with programs' unique profiles to help assess your mutual alignment in a standardized way. As Duet is our newest addition to Altus Suite, it is only available for applicants to US undergraduate and graduate medical programs.
- Know the mission and vision statement of the school!
- Uni of Vermont has a commitment to rural patients and you tell DUET you want a large urban hospital. What do you think that will do to your chances at U Vermont?!



CASPER/SNAPSHOT/DUET

Schools our students usually apply to that require at least CASPER:

- [Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#)
- [Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson](#)
- [Stony Brook \(Renaissance\)](#)
- [SUNY Upstate](#)
- [Temple \(Katz\)](#)
- [U of Illinois](#)
- [U of Miami](#)
- [Boston University](#)
- [Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin](#)
- [Drexel](#)
- [Florida Atlantic](#)
- [Hofstra](#)
- New York Medical College



INTERVIEW TIPS

1. Review your experience section of AMCAS application and think of stories highlighting the competencies the schools are looking to test
2. Time your answers to see what 3 minutes is like
3. Use Big Interview (on YU Career Center's website), <https://www.yu.edu/career-center/cl-logininfo>, and scroll down to Quick Links; it can simulate the VITA experience as much as possible
4. For students less experienced with interviewing you may want to write down your answers –not to memorize but to have thought about your answers beforehand



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Questions?



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Career Center

Contact Us

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