

A person in a dark suit and white shirt is adjusting their dark tie. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a window with blinds.

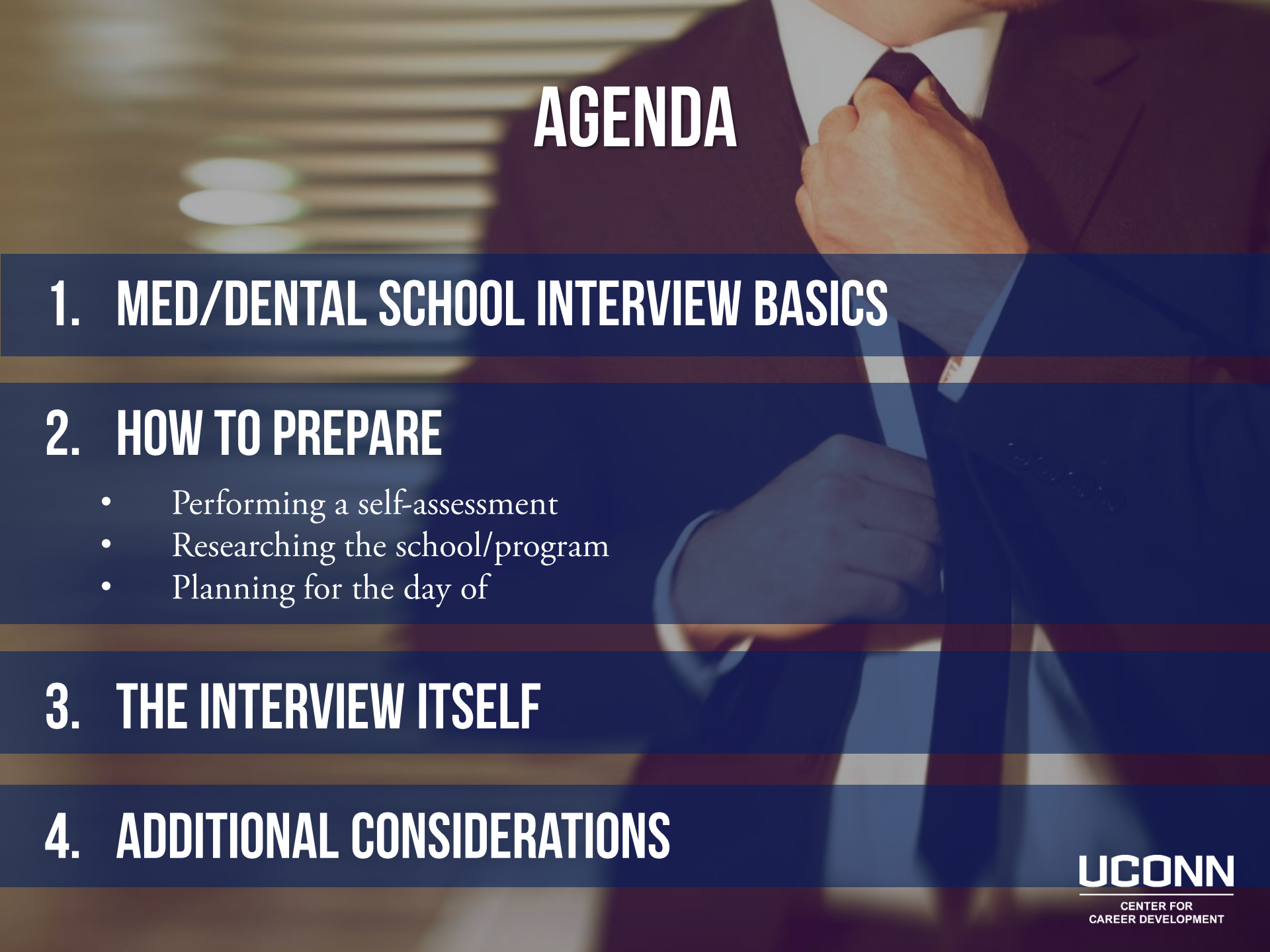
NAVIGATING THE

== HEALTHCARE ADMISSIONS ==

Interview

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A background image of a person in a dark suit and white shirt, adjusting their dark tie. The image is slightly blurred and has a dark overlay.

AGENDA

1. MED/DENTAL SCHOOL INTERVIEW BASICS

2. HOW TO PREPARE

- Performing a self-assessment
- Researching the school/program
- Planning for the day of

3. THE INTERVIEW ITSELF

4. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



1.

MED/DENTAL SCHOOL

INTERVIEW BASICS

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MED SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS

PREPARE

Take entrance exams, write résumé/CV and personal statements, determine schools to apply to etc.

SUBMIT

File primary and secondary applications

INTERVIEW

Meet in-person or virtually with program representatives, faculty, current students, etc.

ACCEPT

Offers extended
😊

Purpose of interview:

to assess your level of interest in the school/program, fit with the current faculty/students, potential in healthcare, and holistic candidacy

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

If you are offered an interview, that means you are a qualified candidate, but it also means everyone else interviewing is a qualified candidate.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, 53,042 prospective students applied to medical school in the 2016-2017 cycle, and a mere 21,030 students matriculated into U.S. programs.

That is roughly **40 %**.

TYPES OF INTERVIEWS

TRADITIONAL:

- One-on-one or group conversation between you and program representatives
- Topics include: background, motivation, depth and breadth of interest, hot topics, ethics, empathy, teamwork, experience

MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEW:

- A series of short, structured interview stations involving live and/or prepared scenarios
- Topics include: ethical decision making, critical thinking, communication skills, current healthcare and societal issues

Resources to determine
type of interview:



2.

PREPARING FOR

AN INTERVIEW

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PERFORMING A SELF-ASSESSMENT

What are the main pieces of information I want to make sure I cover during my interview?

What skills do I want to demonstrate that I have during my interview? Do I have stories/examples to back them up?

What makes me unique in comparison to other candidates?

Am I able to elaborate on everything included in my application materials without being repetitive?

How do my values, interests, and skills align with this particular program?

Can I explain my research in a way that is accessible to others?

RESEARCH

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

- Mission and values
- Program curriculum
- Other program elements, like experiential learning, affiliated student organizations, etc.
- Key faculty and staff
- Faculty research topics
- Recent recognition

WHERE SHOULD I LOOK?

- National and regional associations (ex. AAMC)
- Program's website
- Social media
- LinkedIn
- Husky Mentor Network
- News outlets
- Student Doctor Network

THE NIGHT BEFORE & THE DAY OF

Review directions in advance, do a dry run (if possible)

Lay out clothes and get a good night's sleep

Bring only a padfolio, copies of your materials, and a small briefcase or bag

Arrive 10-15 minutes early

Be “on” from the beginning and make a strong first impression

WHAT TO WEAR

PROFESSIONAL DRESS





2.

THE INTERVIEW

ITSELF

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TYPES OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

TRADITIONAL:

- Usually relate to your personality, background, and values
- Allow interviewer to get to know you better as a person and candidate

BEHAVIORAL:

- Used to find out what type of behavior you have used to handle specific situations in your past experiences
- Allow interviewer to predict how you may react in similar situations in the future

CASE:

- Put your critical thinking and problem solving skills to the test on the spot
- Can allow interviewer to see how you interact in a collaborative setting

TRANSLATING THE QUESTION

How can I tell what they're really asking?

- Listen for keywords
- Put yourself in their shoes
- Focus on transferrable skills/content
- Avoid cliché responses

TRANSLATING THE QUESTION

Examples:

- Why are you interested in becoming a doctor/dentist?
 - Looking for your genuine interest in pursuing the field because graduate school is not easy and they want to make sure you're committed
- Tell me about a time you were part of a successful team.
 - Looking for you to describe your teamwork skills because working in healthcare requires collaborating with many other professionals, and that requires quite a bit of teamwork
- If you won \$1 million tomorrow, what would you do with it?
 - Looking for you to talk about your values and how your actions align with them

TRADITIONAL QUESTIONS

- Why do you want to be a doctor/dentist?
- Why do you want to attend our school?
- What will you do if you don't get in to medical school?
- What are the biggest problems with today's healthcare system?
- What are the most important characteristics of a physician/dentist?
- How do you see this profession being fulfilling to you in 10 years?
- Is there anything else I should know about you? *(at the end)*

BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS

- Behavioral questions usually start with:
 - Tell me about a time when...
 - Give me an example when...
 - Describe a moment when...

SITUATION

Brief overview
for context

TASK

Task or project
the story is about

ACTION

Specific action
steps you took

RESULT

The outcome(s)
and your learning

BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS

- Give me a specific example when you overcame a challenge related to your academics.
- Tell me about a time you demonstrated your ability to work under pressure.
- Describe a situation where you had to communicate a difficult message to someone. How did it go?
- Give me an example of when you successfully solved a problem with a team.

CASE QUESTIONS

Case questions are not intended to test specific field knowledge; they are meant to evaluate your thought process and ability to think on your feet.

- Listen carefully
- Understand the goal (ask questions if you don't)
- Consider the question from a variety of perspectives
- Process out loud, if appropriate
- Work on time management

CASE QUESTIONS

- You see your friend cheating on an exam; what do you do?
- A close friend in your 1st year medical school class tells you that his mother was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and he is considering dropping out to spend more time with her. What would you say to him?
- You are working with a patient who is adamantly requesting a certain type of treatment you don't believe will help. What do you do?
- Why are manholes round?

3.

TIPS TO

SUCCEED

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ETHICS

- Ethics are a theme of healthcare interviews because the program wants to ensure you will go on to be an ethical practitioner
 - Be honest and true to yourself
 - Present both sides of an ethical dilemma to show that you have considered them before making your decision
 - Highlight your ethical and moral values and connect them to the program's whenever possible
 - Your interviewers may have different beliefs than you, but so will your patients at times, and you need to be comfortable with that

COMMUNICATION

NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION:

- Maintain good eye contact
- Be aware of posture, hand gestures, and fidgeting
- Maintain professionalism; treat both faculty and student interviewers equally regarding respect and professionalism
- Show enthusiasm

VERBAL COMMUNICATION:

- Use formal grammar, do not swear under any circumstances
- Avoid fillers such as “um,” “you know,” and “like”
- Silence is okay if used sparingly
- Avoid skipping questions
- If you mess up, address your mistake and keep going

QUESTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWERS

DO ASK:

- 3-5 questions per interview
- Paths of program alumni
- Specific aspects of program curriculum
- Orientation opportunities
- Current events impacting the program
- Program's plans for growth
- Next steps in selection process

DO NOT ASK:

- Anything that can easily be found online
- How much money you can expect to make
- Controversial topics
- Program criticisms
- Personal topics

AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Follow up with a thank you e-mail within 24 hours
- An additional mailed hand-written letter or card is encouraged, but not required
- If you meet with multiple people, send a *unique* note to each
- If you receive an admission offer...
 - Express your enthusiasm for the opportunity
 - Do not say “yes” or accept on the spot
 - Be sure to weigh the pros and cons of all your offers
 - Call the CCD to talk to a career consultant if you need assistance

PRACTICE!



Practice Interview at the CCD



CCD Interviewing Guide



Your Network (friend, family member, professor, mentor)



CCD Interviewing Supplements

HUSKY MENTOR NETWORK



uconn.firsthand.co



2 CONSULTS
WITHIN 15 HRS

Jamie Moffa

TOP MATCH 85%

Medical Student at Washington University School of Medicine

YMCA Swim Instructor and Lifeguard, Granby '16 - '17

Uconn Department of Physiology and Neurobiology Student
Researcher, Mansfield '14 - '17

UCONN HEALTH Student Researcher, Farmington '14

Show all

Washington University in St. Louis, Doctor of Medicine (MD) •
University of Connecticut, Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

Liberal Arts & Sciences

UConn Marching Band



1 CONSULT

Judy Pratt

TOP MATCH 65%

Dentist/ Owner Pratt Family Dentistry

Pratt Family Dentistry owner/Dr, East Greenwich '00 - Present

UConn School of Dental Medicine, DMD

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BIG INTERVIEW



Mock Interview - Medical School



Sandra

Medical School

Prepare to impress in your medical school interviews and gain admission to a top program.



Suzanne

Organizational Skills

Questions about your ability to organize and stay on top of details.



Sarah

Prioritization Skills

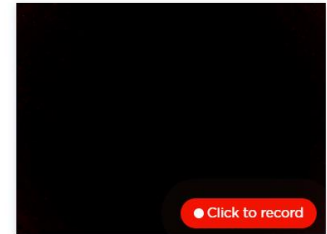
Questions about your judgment and ability to prioritize tasks.



Angela

Time Management

Questions about your ability to meet deadlines and manage time effectively.



What specialty appeals to you most?

Previous question

Next question

THE CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Wilbur Cross Building, Room 202
(860) 486-3013
www.career.uconn.edu

Résumé Critique Hours
Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Same-Day Career Coaching
Monday – Friday
12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



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