

Introduction

Congratulations! You've done it!

You have followed a path riddled with countless hours of studying and memorizing facts, innumerable lecture sessions, and untold expense in anticipation of applying to medical school. Now, you are closer than ever to your goal.

The next challenge you face is one most graduates find daunting: that all-important interview for medical school. Few prospective students worry about their medical school interviews until they are imminent. In fact, most individuals likely will have an interview scheduled before they refer to this guide. Provided you adhere to the program described in this manual, however, you will be better prepared for your interview than nearly all of your competitors.

Be ready to challenge yourself by following the steps found in the upcoming chapters. Some of the tactics described here are well-recognized interview techniques, while others are proven sales methods. By mastering these skills, you will convince interviewers you are the ideal candidate for their school.

As you read this manual, keep the following in mind:

- ❑ Understanding abstract concepts is no substitute for firsthand experience. Though the book presents many ideas, accomplishment comes from putting principles into practice.
- ❑ As concepts are presented, try to identify how each relates to your specific goals. Take individual suggestions personally. After all, this process is entirely about you.
- ❑ Preparing for your interview is a long and arduous process, but the enthusiasm for success you have already demonstrated offers great rewards for your effort.

Now, let's get to it!

Let's just summarize the steps you will follow:

1. Explore the options available to you. These include not only which medical schools you might attend, but also the many specialties you might pursue as your studies progress.
2. Use your circle of influence to gain more information about the field of medicine.
3. Interview as many medical professionals as you can arrange to meet.
4. Learn about medical school interviews.
5. Practice for the medical school interview with at least two mock interviews.

Chapter 2

Exploring Your Options

Test scores, grades, and affiliations have given you an opportunity to be considered for medical school, but they will only get you the interview. Now, you must demonstrate why you are the right candidate.

To present a dynamic interview, you must demonstrate thoughtfulness, determination, maturity, and strength to your interviewers. These are subjective qualities that can be difficult to convey to people who do not know you well. Those individuals who know what they want