

Communication Pearls: Communicating Like a Future Physician

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Goals and Objectives

- To achieve admission to professional school, you need to be professional.
- Professional communication requires
 - Honestly
 - Authenticity
 - Clarity
 - Timeliness

The Vehicles Through Which You Communicate

- Essays
- Emails
- The Interview
- Follow up
- Your digital footprint
 - Social Media

Essays

Personal Statement: who are you?

Tell one, coherent, honest story about who you are and why you want to become a physician.

- Self discovery is the place to start
- Explain what you've done, what you learned from the experience and how it impacted you.
- Be specific – follows your transcript and outside activities

Essays

Secondary Essays: where do you fit?

- Answer the prompt
- Tailor the answer to the mission or specifics of the institution
- Discuss how your experiences are relevant to the institution

Emails

- Be prompt, organized and respectful in every email or scheduling interaction.
- Keep your contact information up to date.
- If you follow up to an interview, do so via email with a substantive, authentic response
- Do not “check –in “ with admission’s offices repeatedly

The Interview

- Be prepared
 - Participate in Mock interviews
 - Re-read your primary and secondary applications
- Don't have prepared answers that sound like you're reading a script
- Be able to talk confidently about yourself and your experiences without being arrogant
- Ask relevant questions
- Interpersonal skills are on full display
 - Engagement, eye contact, friendly
 - Select your outfit carefully

The Virtual Interview – Zoom tips

- Assure you have a quiet location without distractions, stable WIFI
- Assure that you have an appropriate background
- Keep your camera on during presentations and throughout the interview
- Mute your microphone when not speaking
- Use raise hand features – do not talk when others are speaking
- Stay engaged
- Have a professional picture when your camera is not on

Your Digital Footprint

All information available about you online, including:

- Social Media
- Published Articles
- Published Op Eds



What are Communication Mistakes to Avoid?

Answer in the chat.

Summary:

Every Interaction communicates who you are

“Communicate like the physician you want to become”

AAMC Resources:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/6-tips-writing-your-amcas-personal-comments-essay>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/real-stories-demonstrating-premed-competencies/premed-competencies-entering-medical-students>

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/tips-admissions-maintaining-professionalism-throughout-your-interview>



PHYSICIANS MEDICAL FORUM

"The ultimate reason to become a medical doctor is to help people. PMF is in this business"

UCSF

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