

# VETERINARY SCHOOL INTERVIEW GUIDANCE

2024

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*Interviews can seem daunting, but with preparation and practice, you will feel comfortable and confident. The interview process provides programs an opportunity to learn more about you as an individual, understand your motivations, and explore your experiences. They aim to assess whether you align with the program's culture and mission, ultimately selecting candidates who will thrive in the program and contribute positively to the veterinary community. As you prepare, reflect on your journey and how it has shaped your desire to pursue veterinary medicine. Remember, authenticity is critical; programs appreciate candidates who are genuine and passionate about their field.*

*This document is intended to assist applicants in their interview preparation. It serves as a guide to help you prepare for veterinary school interviews, providing tips on interviews and outlining what to do before, during, and after the interview. Whether it's a multiple-mini-interview (MMI), a panel, or a one-on-one, approaching the interview with a positive mindset will help you succeed in this mutual evaluation process.*

**Note: The \* denotes additional guidance for virtual Interviews.**

## BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

### Prepare

- Familiarize yourself with your application, including your VMCAS essay (Statement of Purpose) and any program-specific questions or essays.
- Reflect on your experiences and how they've prepared you for veterinary school.
- Research the school(s) and create a list of thoughtful questions to ask at the end of the interview.
  - Prepare different questions for different interviewers (i.e., faculty vs students).
  - Your interviewers will notice if you have not prepared.
- Stay informed on current issues in veterinary medicine.
- Prepare meaningful questions and show interest in the program.

### Understand the Interview Format

- Know the type of interview you will be participating in (MMI\*\*, one-on-one, panel).

### Set Up Your Space\*

- Find a good neutral background that has good lighting (a blank wall or simple setting is best).
- Find a quiet place with privacy.

### Practice

- Practice interviewing with a mentor, advisor, or friend so you can test out your camera, sound, lighting, and background.
  - Ask for feedback on body language.
- Record yourself practicing to review how you come across.
- Prepare to answer traditional, behavioral, ethical, and situational questions such as:
  - Tell us about yourself (Prepare a 1-2 min elevator pitch)
  - Why do you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

- What qualities do you have that would make you a good veterinarian?
- Why are you interested in our program?
- Tell us about a current issue in veterinary medicine.
- Describe a time when you made a mistake; how did you handle it?
- Describe a time when you faced a conflict or had to make a difficult decision.
- Provide specific examples to support your answers.

## DAY OF THE INTERVIEW

### Test your technology\*

- Check your internet connection.
- Test audio and video setup.
- Be familiar with the interview platform (Zoom, Teams, Kira, etc.).

### Be ready early

- Log in and be seated 10-15 minutes before the interview starts.\*
- Confirm the interview time, accounting for time zone differences.
- Have water nearby in case you need it.

### Dress in professional attire completely

- Wear professional attire to get in the right mindset.

### Minimize distractions

- Silence alerts on your computer, tablet, phone, and other devices.

## DURING THE INTERVIEW

### Take it seriously

- Do your homework and be well prepared.
- Actively listen to the interviewers.
- Have your questions ready.

### Be polite

- Use respectful language.

### Non-verbal body language

- Maintain good posture.
- Maintain good eye contact.
  - Look into the webcam.\*
- Smile.
- Stay calm and confident.

## AFTER THE INTERVIEW

- Take notes right after the interview to capture your thoughts and key takeaways.
- Send a thank you email, ensuring you proofread for grammar and spelling.

### **\*\*Additional tips for multiple mini interviews**

- *Provide a structured response, including an opening, reasons, and a conclusion.*
- *Typically, around 5-10 different stations, anywhere from 5-10 minutes allotted for each station.*
- *Some stations may have an interviewer, while other stations may not.*
- *Practice, practice, practice, and do your research to stay current on issues related to veterinary medicine.*

*For further information on this document, please contact AAVMC*

*Director for Admissions & Recruitment Affairs, Diana L. Dabdub, CAE, at [ddabdub@aavmc.org](mailto:ddabdub@aavmc.org).*