Interview Questions for Physician Assistant School

How did you select this school and why do you want to attend?

Why do you want to be a PA and not an MD?

How will you pay for your PA school education?

There are 1,000 applicants as qualified as you are. Why should we choose you?

What kind of experiences do you have in the medical field?

How have your personal and volunteer experiences strengthened your goal to become a PA?

In what kind of a setting and/or location would you like to practice?

How does a PA differ from a nurse practitioner?

What extracurricular activities were you involved in during your undergraduate years?

What has been your favorite non-science course and why?

“Tell Me About Yourself” Personal Traits/Characteristics

If your best friend were asked to describe you, what would he or she say?

Name something you are most proud of.

Describe yourself in terms of your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

Maturity

How do you handle stress?

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

What motivates you to do your best? How do you motivate those around you to give their best effort?

Leadership

Have you taken advantage of the opportunities available to you on campus to become involved in a community or people-oriented activity?

Interpersonal Communication Skills

What would you do if a patient didn’t like you?

Sometimes it’s important to disagree with others to keep a mistake from being made. Tell me about a time when you were willing to disagree with another person in order to build a positive outcome.

Values & Opinions

• What do you think about HMO’s and the changes taking place in medicine?

• What do you think is the most pressing issue in medicine today? What are some of the possible
• Discuss a medical ethics issue.

• If you knew a fellow medical student was cheating on an exam, what would you do?

• What is your opinion of the current status of health care in the United States? What changes do you think need to be made? Why? How do you expect to be able to influence the system so that these changes can be made?

**Goal Orientation/Motivation**
What are your specific goals in medicine?

Do you have an alternative career plan? If the health care field didn’t exist, what would you do with your life?

Give an example of a time that you did more than what was expected of you. Why did you do this?

**Wrap-Up Questions**
What will you do if you are not accepted to PA school this year?

Since I have control of this interview, what have I not directed you to that you feel I should know about you?