

2027 APPLICATION CYCLE

Interview Workshop

Northeastern University · PreMed & PreHealth Advising

July 15, 2026

■ Today's Agenda



1 Interview Logistics & Types

When interviews happen, why schools hold them, and the four common formats



2 How to Prepare

Reviewing your application, reflecting on yourself, and researching the school



3 Where to Practice

Common questions plus NU and external practice resources



4 Interview Day & Etiquette

Logistics, nerves, professionalism, and handling tough moments



5 After the Interview

Logging impressions, thank-yous, and a final word



6 Questions & Answers

Bring anything on your mind

SECTION ONE

Interview Logistics & Types of Interviews

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■ When Will Interviews Occur?



Interview season runs

June – May

for health professional school admissions.

Once you receive an interview invitation...



Respond quickly and politely

Accept the invitation as soon as you can.



Pick the best date for you

Choose from the options offered based on your schedule.



Avoid requesting alternate dates

Only ask if it's absolutely necessary.



Be proud of yourself

An interview invitation is a major milestone — you earned it!

■ Why Do Schools Hold Interviews?

You're qualified on paper — now they want to meet the person behind the application.



Meet the real you

- See your application come alive and hear what didn't fit in the written space.



Confirm your commitment

- They're investing in you and want to know your motivation for the field is genuine and steady.



Assess mission fit

- How do your values and goals line up with their school, culture, and community?



Let you evaluate them

- It's also your chance to decide whether the school is the right fit for you.

Pro Tip: Review the [AAMC Core Competencies](#) — they apply across all health professions and often surface in interviews.

■ The Four Common Interview Formats



IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL

Traditional

- Conversation with one or more interviewers (faculty, staff, students, alumni, or community members).
- If given interviewer names, look them up beforehand.
- Prepare thoughtful questions to ask at the end.



IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL

Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

- 6–12 short, timed stations, each a different prompt and interviewer.
- Mostly scenario / situational-judgment — no single right answer.
- Interviewer assesses judgment, ethics, and communication.



IN-PERSON / VIRTUAL

Group

- Several candidates interview together.
- Interviewers watch how you engage in group dynamics.
- Balance sharing the stage with voicing your own views.



VIRTUAL

Pre-Recorded

- Timed, asynchronous — no live interviewer, pre-set questions.
- Might be used as a pre-screening tool, paired with a live interview option.
- Practice with tools like [Big Interview](#); learn the platform (e.g., [Kira Talent](#)).

Pro Tip: Programs might combine interview formats for a more dynamic interview day.

SECTION TWO

How to Prepare

Review and reflect on three things: your application, yourself, and the school.



■ How Much They Might Know About You

Interviews vary in how much of your application the interviewer can see.



Open-File

- Interviewer has your full application.
- Expect specific questions about your experiences and academics.



Closed-File

- Interviewer does not have access to your application.
- Expect open-ended, general questions.



Semi-Closed

- A blend — e.g., your full file minus grades and scores, just your personal statement, etc.
- Expect a combination of general and application-specific questions.

Because you can't be sure: always give full context and specific examples, and never assume the interviewer has read your file.

■ Review Your Application



Know what you originally wrote

Review your primary and secondary applications in detail — anything in them is fair game.



Go beyond the page

Be ready to elaborate; aim to expand on what you have written when talking with the interviewer. Provide additional detail with specific stories or anecdotes.



Connect to your journey

Brainstorm how to tie your experiences to your motivation for a career as a healthcare professional and the specific program you will be interviewing with.



Pro Tip: Build a complete story

Frame each answer in three beats so it's easy to follow:
Context > Main Point > Resolution.

Example

Context — I noticed an elderly patient kept missing follow-ups.

Main Point — I called and learned transportation was the barrier.

Resolution — we arranged a ride service, and his visits became consistent.

■ Reflect on your personal...



Motivation

- Why this health profession?
- What contributions do you want to make?
- How have you shown commitment?
- Why this specific program?



Values

- Impact of your experiences
- Cultural awareness
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Navigating ethical challenges



Understanding of Healthcare

- Staying informed on current issues
- Practical insights from experience
- Social determinants of health

Pro Tip: Some of these sound simple but are hard to articulate concisely — practice writing them out or saying them out loud.

■ Research the School & Show Your Fit



Study the essentials

Mission, values, curriculum, research areas, and clinic or hospital affiliations.



Look beyond campus

Consider the surrounding community and the patient populations you'd be learning to serve.



Have your reasons ready

Develop 2-3 specific reasons you want the specific program.



Pro Tip: Bridge your experience to the program's mission

Connect your clinical, research, and service experiences to the school's specific opportunities and mission.

Example

My time at Rosie's Place, a Boston women's shelter that provides meals, housing, and support services to women experiencing poverty and homelessness, deepened my desire to care for vulnerable and marginalized populations. Working alongside women navigating such unstable circumstances showed me how closely health is tied to safety, dignity, and access to basic needs—and it drew me specifically toward women's health and supporting the needs of women and children, who too often fall through the cracks of the healthcare system. I'm excited by the prospect of continuing to serve my community and combat healthcare inequities through Boston University's partnership with the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program.

SECTION THREE

Where to Practice

Rehearse with real questions and take advantage of NU and external resources.

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■ Practice With Common Questions



Experience-based

"Describe a time you saw a teammate act inappropriately — how did you respond?"



Personal

"What differentiates you from other applicants?"

"Name a strength and a weakness in your application."



Situational judgment

"A family member relies solely on alternative medicine for a serious illness. What would you do?"

Practice Question Banks

[50 Common Medical School Interview Questions](#)

Princeton Review

[300 MMI Practice Questions](#)

BeMo

[MMI Resources](#)

University of Michigan

[Student Doctor Network: Interview Feedback](#)

Pro Tip: For situational judgement style questions, focus on identifying the core issue/theme addressed in the question and in your response elaborate on that topic (in addition to the specifics of your plan of action).

■ Practice & Feedback Resources



Mock Interviews (PMPH)

- Practice traditional (1:1) and MMI interviews with the PMPH team, held virtually (~30 min).
- Email your advisor to book, after receiving an interview invitation.
- Applicants can practice one traditional and one MMI interview.



Northeastern Applicant's Interview Feedback

- Read past [NU applicants' tips](#) (NU credentials required).
- After your interview, [contribute your feedback](#) to pay it forward.



Big Interview

- Free resource available to Northeastern students and alumni
- Online practice with AI feedback on answers and delivery.
- Your recording is emailed to you to review.



Northeastern University Resources

- [Undergraduate Research & Fellowships](#) - Mock Research Interviews for Dual-Degree (e.g., MD/PhD) Applicants
- [Career Studio](#) – Talk through Big Interview feedback and additional support.

■ Health Profession Organization Resources

Official interview guidance from the national associations for each health profession.



[Interview Resources for Medical School Applicants](#)

By AAMC



[Admissions Interview](#)

By AACOM



[Interviewing](#)

By ADEA



[Prepare for your PA school interview](#)

By AAPA



[Optometry School Admissions Interview](#)

By ASCO



[Interview Guidance](#)

By AAVMC

SECTION FOUR

Interview Day & Etiquette

Small things — timing, presence, professionalism — leave a big impression.



■ Interview Day Essentials



The Night Before

- Review your notes about the school and your interview prep.
- Make sure your interview day items are prepped.
- Do something relaxing to calm your nerves.



What to Wear

- Dress professionally and conservatively.
- Full formal attire — even for virtual (not just waist-up).
- Be mindful of distracting attire.



Body Language & Background

- Sit up tall and lean slightly forward.
- Maintain eye contact & show enthusiasm.
- For virtual interviews, keep background clean & tidy.



Be on Time

- Arrive early; silence and store your phone away.
- Practice using technology ahead of time (virtual interviews).
- Practice your commute ahead of time (in-person interviews).

Pro-Tip: Be courteous to everyone — students, staff, and administrative assistants, not just your direct interviewers.
Usually everyone present has a say in your interview day outcome!

■ Nerves & Tech Issues Are Normal



Nerves

- **It's OK to show this matters to you**
— interviewers expect it.
- **If you stumble: breathe, reorganize, continue**
Don't be afraid to ask for a question to be repeated.



Tech Glitches

- **They happen — and not only on your end**
- **Stay calm and don't over-apologize**
- **Have a backup option ready**
e.g., a phone number to call or a way to rejoin if something comes up.

■ Strategies for Answering & Asking Questions



Answer openly and honestly

Integrity and vulnerability are highly valued.



Focus on growth & values, not tasks

Talk about how you've grown from your experiences and how your experiences demonstrate your values.



Take a beat before answering

A short pause to reflect and organize your thoughts is completely fine.



Show passion and enthusiasm

Let your genuine interest in the profession come through.



Reframe weaknesses as growth

If asked about a deficiency, show a growth mindset and stay positive. The goal is not to avoid weak areas, but to demonstrate your awareness of them and how you navigate challenges.



Ask curious, open-ended questions

Prepare 4-5 questions to ask at the end of your interview. Plan to ask only 2-3, but it's good to have back-ups already prepared.

Avoid questions that can be answered from the website. Aim for real dialogue and greater understanding.

Be mindful of your interviewer's role and scope of what they might be able to answer.

■ Professionalism



Why it matters

Patients come to you vulnerable — seeking expertise, empathy, and guidance.

Professional attire, actions, and language help build trust and confidence.

How you present yourself reflects on you, the health professional school, and the profession as a whole.

How to show it during the application cycle:



Actions

Be on time; be kind and considerate of others; be aware of your body language, word choices, email frequency, and attire.



Online

Keep your digital footprint consistent with your professional values.

■ Responding to Inappropriate Questions

Certain personal questions are off-limits because they can enable discrimination:

● Race, ethnicity, or national origin

● Religion

● Gender or sexual orientation

● Age

● Disability

● Marital or family status

● Financial status



How to respond

- Seek clarification: “Could you explain how this relates to my candidacy?”
- If needed, note that your private views don't affect your patient-centered care.
- **Contact your PMPH advisor right away to discuss the incident.**

SECTION FIVE

After the Interview

The process isn't over when the interview ends.



■ After the Interview



Note your impressions

- Jot down what you liked and didn't — right away. Later these notes will be invaluable if you're choosing between schools.
- Contribute to the [PMPH Interview Feedback Survey](#) to share your experience with future applicants.
- Some programs might have “second look days” to reassess fit.



Thank your interviewers

- Send a personalized email to each person who interviewed you (one to the Admissions Office is enough for MMI).
- Restate specific reasons for your interest.
- If it's your first choice, you may say so — but be honest. Don't tell every school that.



A Final Thought

Schools review applications on all different timelines — patience is key 😊



Questions?

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Remember to let your PreHealth Advisor know when you receive an interview invitation!