**Questions You Might Be Asked**

What follows are some sample questions. Most of these have been asked in one form or another at every school, and familiarity with this list should help you anticipate questions.

**“Why Do You Want to be a Doctor?”**

* Why are you interested in medicine?
* When did you decide to apply to medical school?
* What have you done to demonstrate your interest in medicine?
* Do your parents support your desire to go to medical school?
* When did you decide you wanted to be a doctor?
* Are there any physicians in your family?
* Have you ever known any doctor personally? If so, did you consult the doctor regarding entering medical school?
* What one person has had the most impact on you and your decision to go to medical school?

**Health Care Issues**

* What are some of the major problems facing health care today?
* What is your opinion on abortion? Treatment of AIDS victims? Organ procurement and transplantation?
* What do you think of national health insurance? Socialized medicine?
* What should be done about the high cost of medical care?
* What do you know about HMOs? DRGs? For-profit hospitals? PPOs?
* Who is Jack Kevorkian?
* What do you think should be done about health care for the elderly?
* Do you have an idea how much a surgeon has to pay in malpractice insurance?

**Background/Personal Attributes**

* Tell me about yourself.
* Explain/describe personal experiences mentioned in your essay.
* What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
* How would your parents describe you?
* Describe your work/hospital experience.
* Besides your hospital work, what have you done to show your concern for humanity?
* What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?
* Was your undergraduate career rewarding?
* What do your parents do?
* How did your major prepare you for medicine? Would you change your choice of major if you started over?
* In what extracurricular activities have you participated while in college? High school?
* Give a brief review of your independent research.
* What has been the most meaningful part of your education?
* Have you read a good novel lately? What was it? Who wrote it?
* What is a typical day for you?
* What is your major, and why did you choose it?
* What have you done during the past summers since entering college?
* What are your brothers and sisters doing?
* Discuss your family and your relationships with your family members.
* Explain discrepancies and inconsistencies in your academic record.
* What historic person would you like to have met? Why?
* If you have a particularly stressful day, how do you unwind?

**Questions About Duke**

* Tell me what Duke is like.
* Why did you choose Duke for your undergraduate education?
* When you were accepted to Duke as an undergraduate, were you accepted to any other school?
* Did you (do you) like Duke? Why?
* What course taken at Duke is (was) your favorite and why? Least favorite?

**Future Plans**

* How do you feel about marriage and children? (An example of an illegal question–unless you bring it up first)
* Will you be prepared to arrange for child care every third night when you are doing your residency? (Ditto)
* How do you envision life as a doctor? How do you see yourself in ten years?
* What will you do if you are not accepted into medical school?
* What do you see your contribution in medicine as being?
* Will the threats of malpractice suits in medicine limit your career plans?
* What rewards will you get from the profession?
* What are your plans for a medical career?
* What will society be like in fifteen years and how will medicine fit it?
* Do you think you know what you are getting into?
* Do you know what it is like to deal with the sick?

**Value Judgments/Ethical Issues**

* What qualities do you associate with a good doctor?
* What qualities do you possess that would make you a good physician?
* Have you thought about abortion and euthanasia?
* If you were an RA and one of your residents told you in confidence that he/she had AIDS, what would you do?
* Do you think health care is a “natural right” or a “freedom of choice”?
* Tell me about an ethical choice or decision that you have had to make?

**Choice of Medical Schools**

* Why did you apply to this medical school?
* What other schools did you apply to?
* Do you have any questions about this medical school or its medical program?
* Are you interested in this region as a place to settle?