

# 31 Questions I Wish I Had Asked of a Health Professions Program<sup>1</sup>

1. Are there any special programs for which this health profession program/school is noted?

## Curriculum

2. Describe this school's curriculum. Are there both clinical and classroom experiences? Are there any innovations, like problem-based learning?
3. Are there opportunities for students to design, conduct, and publish their own research?
4. Is there a note-taking service? If so, is it university-run or student-run?
5. Is there flexibility in the coursework (the number of electives) and timing of the courses (accelerating, decelerating, and time-off), full or part-time programs?
6. Has this health profession program/school, or any of its departments, been on probation or had its accreditation revoked?
7. How do students from this school perform on the National Board Examinations? How does the school assist students who do not pass?

## Evaluations

8. How are students evaluated academically? How are clinical evaluations performed?
9. Is there a formal mechanism in place for students to evaluate their professors and attending physicians/health professionals? What changes have been made recently as a result of this feedback?

## Counseling/Student Support

10. What kind of academic, personal, financial, and career counseling is available to students? Are these services also offered to their spouses and dependents/children?
11. Is there a mentor/advisor system? Who are the advisors--faculty members, other students or both?
12. How diverse is the student body? Are there support services or organizations for ethnic minorities and women?

## Facilities

13. Tell me about the library and extracurricular facilities (i.e. housing & athletic/recreational facilities).
14. Are there computer facilities available to a student? Are they integrated into the curriculum/learning?
15. What types of clinical sites are available or required for internships? Does this school allow students to do rotations at other institutions or internationally?
16. Is a car necessary for internships/clinical rotations? Is parking a problem?
17. What is the current tuition and fees? Is this expected to increase yearly? If so, at what rate?
18. Are there stable levels of federal financial aid and substantial amounts of university/program endowment aid available to students?
19. Are there students who have an "unmet need" factor in their budget? If so, where do these students come up with extra funds?
20. Is spouses and dependents/children endowment aid available to students?
21. Is someone available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from "31 Questions I Wish I Had Asked of a Medical School" by The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, date unknown. Re-adapted from the "Health Professions Fair 2003: Get in Touch with Your Future" Handout, UTSA College of Sciences Undergraduate Advising Center, San Antonio, TX, 2003.

22. Does this school provide guidance to its students and its graduates/alumni on debt management?

**Financial Aid**

23. What school committees (e.g. curriculum committee) have student representation?

24. Are students involved in (required or voluntary) community service?

25. How active is the student council/government? Are there other student organizations?

**Policies**

26. Is there an established protocol for dealing with students' exposure to infectious disease? Is disability insurance provided to cover this exposure?

27. Does this school provide, or does the student pay for, vaccinations against Hepatitis B prophylactic AZT treatment in case of a needle-stick or an accident?

28. Is there a school Honor Code? Is there a grievance process/procedure? Are the students involved?

**Residency**

29. Is a residency/internship/externship required for this health professions program? OR May I see a list of residency programs to which this school's recent graduates were accepted?

(Note: This last question may be more applicable for medical students.)

**Questions to Ask Yourself**

30. Does this school have strengths in the type of medicine they practice (e.g. specialized care, urban versus rural practice environment, academic medicine versus private practice)?

31. Would I be happy at this school (for at least the next 2-4 years)?