

Student Guide

Tips for Attending a Health Professions Fair¹

What is the health professions fair?

The health professions fair is a one-day event set up to connect interested students and community members to large numbers of health professions program representatives. Program representatives are there to promote their school and programs, and recruit prospective applicants. So, if you are interested in learning more about a particular program, school, or potential career, use the opportunity to participate in the health professions fair to your advantage.

What are the benefits of attending the health professions fair?

Consider a health professions day fair to be one-stop exploration for your health professions interests and pursuits. It will provide an excellent opportunity for you to talk to numerous health professions program representatives at one time and place. Some direct benefits of attending a health professions day fair include:

- Making contacts in an efficient and economical way.
- Learning more about specific health professions programs, schools, and careers.
- Talking to admissions and program representatives face-to-face.
- Gathering information or seeking feedback about educational background, experiences, in your application portfolio, as well as for suggestions on how to become a more competitive applicant.

Day of Event Tips

Bring a pen, folder, note pad, and/or some sort of log sheet to keep you organized. A highlighter can be useful to help indicate which school(s) you want to see. Be open-minded and flexible, you might be surprised what you find out.

Meeting Program Representatives

Approach a representative and introduce yourself. Shake hands, make good eye contact and tell the representative your name, major and interests. The more focused you are the better. Have a 30-second “elevator speech” as a way to sell yourself to a school. This is a great way to introduce yourself. In less than one minute, you need to introduce yourself and express enthusiasm and interest in pursuing a career in a health profession occupation.

Thank representatives for any brochures or promotional materials you were given. Collect business cards and jot down a fact on the back to jog your memory if you want to write a follow-up email.

Other Dos and Don'ts:

- Be assertive without being rude.
- Don't monopolize someone's time.

¹ Adapted from “AAMC: Choosing a Medical career and selecting medical schools: 35 questions I wish I had asked.

- Be sensitive to others waiting behind you.
- Realize that admission representatives/recruiters like to talk to groups.
- Observe other students as well as health profession program representatives for clues.

Example questions to ask during the event:

1. What makes your health profession school unique?
2. Why do you think students choose your school?
3. Are there special or combined programs offered?
4. What does a successful applicant look like at your school?
5. What is the median range of entrance exam scores and GPAs of applicants accepted to your school?
6. Can you talk about diversity at your school and what you do to promote it?
7. Is there required pre-requisite coursework that I should take?
8. How does your school prepare students for selecting a specialty and applying for residency or employment?
9. What are the opportunities available for research?
10. When does patient interaction or clinical rotations begin?
11. In addition to academic support, are there services or resources available for students who become stressed, experience anxiety, or need help?
12. Can you speak generally about your curriculum and approach to teaching/learning?
13. How are students evaluated through their coursework?
14. What would you like me to know about your school that I can't find out from your website?

Financial Aid

15. What is the current tuition and fees? Is this an expense that increases yearly?
16. In addition to funds provided through use of federal financial aid, are there significant amounts of university/institutional aid available to students?
17. Are there students who have an "unmet need" factor in their budget? If so, how do these students come up with the extra funds?
18. Are there services/staff available to assist students with budgeting and financial planning?
19. Does this school provide guidance to its students and to its graduates/alumni on debt management?

