Modified Personal Interview

The Modified Personal Interview (MPI) was developed by the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Medicine and launched in 2014. The MPI interview format is used for admission to the University of Toronto’s MD Program.

What is the MPI?

The MPI consists of four independent interviews assessed by four different interviewers. Interviewers are closely connected to U of T’s medical community and may include physicians, medical students, residents, health professionals and community members. Each interview is approximately 12 minutes in length.

Why are MPIs used?

The goal of the MPI is to learn more about each applicant, and to assess whether or not the applicant possesses the competencies necessary to be successful in U of T’s medical program. In using four independent interviewers, multiple sampling works to ensure that students are evaluated fairly by a variety of raters. The one-on-one interaction also enhances the applicants’ ability to get to know more about U of T’s medical school. At the end of each interview there is a chance to ask the interviewer questions. These could, for example, be about the program, U of T, Toronto or the profession.

Key Features of the MPI

- Applicants rotate through 4 independent interview stations
- Each interview is 12 minutes in length
- There is a 3-minute interval in between each interview station
- Interviews follow a more traditional question and answer format
- Door prompts are not used
- Each station measures a specific competency, but also gauges the applicant’s suitability for the program based on overarching qualities
- Applicants are invited to ask interviewers questions at the end of the interview
How to Prepare for the MPI

Preparation and practice are essential for success in almost all interview scenarios, and the MPI is no different. While there is not one set way to prepare for the MPI, here are some recommendations:

1. Research common themes related to medical education in Canada. Specifically, review and familiarize yourself with the four clusters of competencies, attributes and achievements that are highlighted in U of T’s MD Program admission requirements. These are:
   - **Professional**: maturity, reliability, perseverance and responsibility
   - **Communicator/collaborator/manager**: communication, collaboration, teamwork, time management and leadership
   - **Advocate**: advocacy, community service and social responsibility
   - **Scholar**: academic standing, achievements in leadership, research and social responsibility as demonstrated by (but not limited to) awards, conference presentations, publications and scholarships

2. Brainstorm and research questions that you think relate to the themes highlighted above, as well as other common themes in medical education.

3. Familiarize yourself with current events, both locally and internationally.

4. Review your application materials and be prepared to discuss in greater detail the various activities and experiences you have listed.

5. Find friends, colleagues, family members, etc. who are willing to practice with you. You may even want to take a turn being the interviewer, to see how others respond to the interview questions.

6. Visit the U of T Career Centre and schedule a practice interview and/or a feedback session with a career counsellor.

**Tips for Success**

- Prepare for how you might answer certain questions, but don’t memorize your answers – this can come across as too rehearsed and not authentic.

- Try to see multiple viewpoints and perspectives when answering a question.

- Personalize your response if you can. If and when it makes sense, reference your own experiences and how this relates to your response.

- Be confident in your responses as well as your own experiences and achievements, but be careful not to sound boastful or arrogant.

- If you don’t understand the question ask your interviewer to repeat the question.

- If you lose your train of thought or feel as though you are rambling, pause to collect your thoughts before you continue.

- Make sure you directly answer the question. Repeating the question before you speak, or referencing it in your response can help you stay on track.