

## Questions for Personal Statements

*This guide is designed to help you begin the process of crafting your personal statement for professional school. Answer all of the questions as thoroughly as possible to help you identify elements you want to include in your finalized personal statement.*

1. Why do you want to become a physician/dentist/pharmacist/etc.?
2. What do you see as your role in the profession if you do become a physician/dentist/pharmacist/etc.? Why?
3. Why are you sure you will succeed in professional school? What qualities do you have that are important or special that will help you and how will you deal with the hardships that professional school presents?
4. Why are you sure you will succeed as a physician/dentist/pharmacist/etc.? What qualities do you have that are special that will help you and how will you deal with the hardships that the profession presents?
5. What are your problem solving and critical thinking skills?
6. Do you have tutoring or teaching assistant experience (or anything similar)? If so, elaborate on how you handled that leadership role.
7. Do you have any experience in any other leadership role - perhaps in a job, in a study group, a group project, a team presentation, etc? If so, elaborate on how you handled that leadership role.
8. Why do you believe your academic background has prepared you to be successful in the professional schools you are applying to?
9. Do you have examples of scholastic achievements?
10. Do you have any research laboratory experience? Be sure to include any research projects and papers you were involved with.
11. Do you have examples of potential for growth? Here is an opportunity for you to explain some problem or deficiency in your background and what you are doing/have done to resolve the problem.
12. Do you have specific examples of your originality or independent thinking?
13. Describe your ability to deal with stress. Include your ability to be able to deal with stress as a student in professional school and during a career in your health profession. What do you believe are the important stressors in professional school and in the career? How are you prepared to successfully cope with those sources of stress?
14. Describe your commitment to community service. **This is very important** - give as many examples and specifics of community service or volunteer work you have done as you can.
15. Describe the community service you intend to do in your profession. Give specific reasons why you intend to do that service.
16. Describe your commitment to your preferred profession.
17. What are your people (or your interaction) skills and your communication skills? Include written, listening, and speaking skills.
18. How have you used your people skills to help and care for others in volunteer work? What have you done that you are especially proud of? How compassionate and caring are you? (this is your opportunity to show that you will be a caring health professional)
19. What is the most important thing that professional schools should know about you? Why?
20. What have you learned in your coursework that is vital to your success in professional school? What have you learned outside of class that is vital to your success in professional school? Why are these things the most important to you?
21. Describe your honesty, your sense of justice, your integrity, and anything else related to these important characteristics.

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