

A few observations on Interviewing for an Emergency Medicine Residency

Much of the interview is based on the type of interaction you have with the interviewer – they know all of your statistics – they want to see what kind of person you are and if you will “fit in” in their program

(They are looking for future residents with energy, enthusiasm, a strong work ethic, eagerness to learn, a realistic view of EM, a balanced individual with other interests; strongly academic programs want you to demonstrate your interest in research and goals to practice academic EM)

You may be asked about your future plans-

What type of practice do you anticipate?

Academic vs. community

Urban vs. rural

Are you interested in fellowship training?

Are there any areas of EM that you are particularly interested in
(toxicology, EMS, pediatrics, research/ academic)

What personal qualities do you possess that would make you a good EM physician?

In what part of the country would you like to practice?

How did you become interested in EM?

What do you see as the benefits (strengths) and disadvantages of an EM practice?

The more you know about their program the better for both the interview and later when you are ranking programs

Questions you may want to ask during your interview (it’s hard to appear eager, alert and interested after a full day of interviewing – but don’t look bored – always have a question)

What is the ED volume? – What percentage of pediatrics?

What percentage of residents goes into Academic vs. Community practice?

Do any of the faculty have specialty areas of expertise?

What is the EMS experience?

What is the trauma experience?

What is the ultrasound experience?

Have any residents left the program during their residency and why?

What is the Board pass rate of graduates from your program?

What research the department is performing?

When was your last RRC visit?

Finally: indicate that you are interested in their program. Believe it or not, during what we called the “rank Olympics” (hours and hours of ranking the candidates) we did consider the likelihood that the candidate would rank us (did they seem interested in what

our program offered? were they interested in our area of the country? Etc)— don't forget – not only are they evaluating you, but you are evaluating them.

Good Luck
Linda Nordeman