

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY

Specialty: Ob/Gyn

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 14 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 12 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 11/05 to 2/06

Typical structure of interview day:

- informal breakfast
- formal presentation of residency program (program structure, faculty, residents)
- interview with faculty and/or residents (range from 3-6 interviews per program)
- informal time with residents to ask questions
- lunch with faculty and residents
- tour of facility
- plus or minus dinner with residents the night before interview (most programs have this, should definitely go to them if possible. You get to know the residents better and they remember you better. You can also ask lots of questions that you might not ask during the actual interview day)

Popular topics covered in the interviews:

- your strength, weaknesses
- why you chose to apply to this program
- what makes you stand out, why they should choose you as a resident
- 10 year (or future) career plan? E.g. general practice, academic position, specialty
- fellowship interest?
- why you chose Ob/gyn
- what do you do for fun? (say something interesting!)

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.):

- ethics questions (they are pretty straight forward, you know what they want you to answer)
- one or two of the programs asked some technical questions, but most programs are very laid back.

How did you prepare for your interviews?

- talked to current residents to get tips
- look over your resume to make sure you can talk about EVERYTHING and ANYTHING on it without hesitation. In another word, know what you put down in the CV
- think about your weakness, they like that question.
- read about the programs (many of them have websites now so it's pretty easy) so at least you know basics about they (e.g. program director's name, chairman's name, number of residents per year, what fellowships they have) You don't want to appear unprepared by asking obvious questions that are all over their websites.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? Yes. Did you find this helpful as an applicant?

- yes, if you think you want to go to a program and want to learn about them, doing an away rotation would help you find out the dirty facts they you won't get during the one day interview. Also, they get to know you so it's easier, I think! I don't think it ever hurts to do an away rotation. If you are afraid to do it because you think they might end up not liking you because of the rotation, do you really want to end up at a place where people don't like you anyway?

Additional comments/advice:

- Be yourself.
- Be nice to other applicants, some of them will end up being your fellow residents
- Relax! It's fun (everything says this and nobody believes it until they have gone through the interview process, but it's true!)
- Be polite and respectful at all times

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Yes, absolutely!

My email address is wingkan.so@jefferson.edu

Specialty: OB/GYN

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 20

Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 14

Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 11/05 to 01/06

Typical structure of interview day: Arrive between 7-8am, overview of the program by the program director, introduction of key faculty member (i.e. chairman and department heads), 2-5 interviews (mostly one on one with a faculty member or resident, but there were several group interviews, 2 on 2s, 2 on 1s), lunch and then a tour of the facility. Most interviews days ended by early to mid afternoon

Popular topics covered in the interviews: Specifics about activities mentioned in your CV (knowing a short, entertaining story about extracurricular activities is a good idea). What is your greatest strength and your greatest weakness? Why Ob/Gyn? Give an example of an ethically challenging situation and how you handled it? What do you do in your spare time? Why did you apply to this specific program? (Make sure you have a good answer, not just location!). What are you looking for in a program? Where do you see yourself in the future?

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks: If you had a million dollars, which charity would you support and why? Who has been the most fascinating person of the year in your eyes? Do you have a nickname and what is the reason behind it? What is the most difficult problem facing the healthcare field? What is the most difficult problem facing doctors? Currently, what are the three biggest women's health issues and what can we do to fix them? (This was the worst!)

How did you prepare for your interviews? Reviewed my CV and Personal Statement at the beginning of interview season, the night before an interview I would review the program's website on-line/print out some highlights of the information online to read while I was traveling, write down anything that pops out at you as a strength or weakness to the program and ask about it

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? No.

Additional comments/advice:

- 1) Before you start interviewing, take a couple of minutes to brainstorm a list of general questions you can use in any situation. The most uncomfortable part of interviewing is when there is silence. If you have a bunch of generic questions in the back of your mind, then you will be able to quickly cover over any lulls in conversation.
- 2) Try to make your questions level-specific, i.e. think about your audience. A chairman won't know specific details about the curriculum or call schedule. An MFM attending won't know about the surgical facilities. It can be a pain in the butt, but try your best to ask the right questions of the right people.
- 3) Make travel arrangements as early as possible to save money! Traveling with friends is cheaper and way more fun.
- 4) Even though you may have preconceived notions about a program, because of things you will hear through the grapevine (for example – a program is very malignant), give every program you interview at a fair chance. You've spent the time and money to be there, so you may as well try.
- 5) Don't be afraid to ask tough questions. Ask the Program Director - "Has anyone left the program in the past five years and if so, why?" Ask the upper year residents- "Do you feel that you have gotten a good, well-rounded education? Do you feel you have the skills to pursue the next stage of your career? Are you still happy with your choice of programs? What things could be done better? How responsive is the administration to change?"
- 6) Try to meet as many people as possible, especially residents. When all is said and done, you will be able to get a good education at a variety of programs. What will make the difference is how you felt about the people and the environment. Can you see yourself there for the next 4 years?
- 7) If something stands out in your mind during the interview day, good or bad, write it down. The programs will definitely start to blend together and these little notes can help trigger your memory when you sit down to go through your interview day folders (on almost every interview they give you a packet full of information about the program) later.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: michelle.knight@jefferson.edu

Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Abigail Wolf

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 27 Was this number sufficient? YES

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 18 Was this number sufficient? Probably a bit overkill – but I haven't matched yet. Most people only do 10-12 interviews for Ob/Gyn.

Interview season: 11/4/05 to 1/17/06

Typical structure of interview day: Breakfast, introduction by program director, 3-5 interviews with faculty and residents, lunch, tours. Occasionally we were sent on a bus to distant affiliated hospitals and had to suffer through more tours...

Popular topics covered in the interviews:

1. What would you bring to this program?
2. What brought you to Ob/Gyn?
3. What are you looking for in a program?
4. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.):

1. Give an example of a conflict in medical school and how you resolved it.
2. Describe your hardest day in medical school.
3. What were things you liked or didn't like about your medical school?
4. What three words would your friends use to describe you?

How did you prepare for your interviews?

1. I read about the program online, took notes on any unique features and thought of good questions.
2. I bought a grey suit - many interviewers commented that they like it when people don't wear black.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? I did three away rotations in California, and this was absolutely essential for getting interviews and for being taken seriously as an applicant. If you plan to match somewhere not on the East Coast, then you must do away rotations!

Additional comments/advice: At every interview I went on, people asked about a billion times: "Do you have any more questions?" The most important part of your interview process is coming up with a countless number of intelligent, original, personalized questions. Get started.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Any applicants interested in matching in Ob/Gyn, especially in California or Colorado, please email me: emicks@gmail.com

Specialty: Ob/GYN

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Dr. Wolf and Sultana

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 9 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 9 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 11/05 to 01/06

Typical structure of interview day: occasionally there was morning report or grand rounds, then breakfast and welcome to program including program info sometimes introductions by all the sub specialists then interview (anywhere from 2-6)! Then lunch and a tour.

Popular topics covered in the interviews: do you have any questions about our program???? Asked detailed questions about publications

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): tying knots, using laparoscopy instruments

How did you prepare for your interviews? Did not prepare.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? Yes. Did you find this helpful as an applicant? Yes

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: frances.baylson@jefferson.edu
