

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Specialty: Ophthalmology

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Dr. Edward Jaegar at Wills

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: SF Match

Number of programs applied to: 50 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 16 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 10/05 to 12/05

Typical structure of interview day: Breakfast, introduction to program, interviews (usually 3 panel interviews with 2-3 interviewers), lunch and tour

Popular topics covered in the interviews: Why do you want to do ophthalmology? Describe an ethical dilemma you faced. Current events. Select items from your CV. Know your research topics

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): How would you resolve the problem of 40,000 uninsured Americans? How would you solve the nuclear situation in North Korea? What sort of schedule would you propose to the president for troop removal in Iraq? If you were Terry Schiavo's physician, how would you have handled that situation? Jefferson used to have women sign contracts that if they were unwed and got pregnant in medical school, they would be expelled—if you were asked to sign that contract, how would you respond?

How did you prepare for your interviews? Made sure I had something to say about everything on my CV, reread my research, read Newsweek every week.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? Yes. Did you find this helpful as an applicant? No

Additional comments/advice: Take Ocular pathology early in your 4th year and get an amazing letter from Dr. Eagle.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: keb005@jefferson.edu

Specialty: Ophthalmology

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Dr. Edward Jaeger and Dr. Tara Uhler at Wills Eye Hospital

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: SFMatch for Ophthalmology and ERAS for Transitional Year

Number of programs applied to: 40 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 13 Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 10/05 to 12/05

Typical structure of interview day: Usually Intro Talk from program director or chair of program.

Since Ophthalmology programs typically only have 2-3 interview days, there are a larger number of applicants at each interview (20-30). At most of my interviews, half the interview group interviewed while the other half went on a tour, then the groups switched. There also was usually a lunch during which you could meet the current residents and ask questions. For about 5 or 6 interviews, there was a reception/dinner the night before or the night after the interviews. Don't forget to dress nicely for these receptions (not your interview suit, but no jeans). The reception and luncheon are key times to get to talk to the program director and residents in a laid back setting. This is not only the time to ask questions you may not feel comfortable asking in an interview setting, but this is the program's time to get to know you as a person and to see how you interact with other applicants/current residents. Many ophtho programs are quite small (average about 3-4 residents per year) so make sure you portray yourself as friendly and a "team player" all day.

Popular topics covered in the interviews: Why I decided to go to Jefferson, college experience, volunteer activities, research, hobbies, recent books read (make sure you've read at least one non-textbook this year and be able to talk about its poignant parts).

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): 1. Pretend you are the program director, how would you: choose applicants, confront a resident that is not performing well, improve the current program, etc. 2. Talk about an ethical dilemma you encountered in medical school. 3. What is the

worst mistake you ever made in life, in medical school. 3. Sing a song. 4. Talk about a difficult situation in your life and describe how you handled it.

How did you prepare for your interviews? The night before I would look up information about the program on the internet or read the brochures sent by the program. I also tried to get in touch with Jefferson alums who may have interviewed at the program to get advice. If there are current residents at the program who are Jefferson grads, I often tried to contact them as well. It always looks good to know something solid about the program on interview day. The most important info to know is the name of the Chair and Program director, names of residents if possible (alumni connections are key-college or med school), curriculum, hospital sites (is there a VA? How much time is spent there?).

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

It is important to get to know key faculty and residents while you are away. This is basically a month long interview. Make sure you get along with the residents very well and keep in touch if you are interested in the program. You are most likely guaranteed an interview if you do an away rotation at a particular program, so make sure it is a program you are interested in going to.

Additional comments/advice: Interview season is a long and arduous process. Always stay positive, attend as many interviews as you physically can, and always look happy and energetic even if it's your 14th interview of the year.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Yes, please contact me with any and all questions. I'd be happy to help. Email: Linda.Ohsie@jefferson.edu
