

Questions to ask during the showcase meetings

Source: <https://www.aafp.org/students-residents/medical-students/become-a-resident/applying-to-residency/prepare-for-residency-interviews/questions.html>

General Questions for Faculty and Program Directors

Most residency program websites provide basic information about the program's structure and philosophy. Meetings with faculty members and program directors are your opportunities to go beyond surface information. Use these questions to ask about curriculum, rotations, processes, past accomplishments and graduates, the future of the program, and elicit feedback about what life will be like as a resident.

- Where are most past graduates located?
- Which type of practices do past graduates go in to after residency?
- How do you perceive your program compared to other programs?
- What are the program's strengths? What makes the program unique?
- What kind of feedback have past graduates given you about your program?
- Which rotations are conducted at which hospitals and clinics?
- What other residency programs are on-site?
- How and how often is feedback provided to residents?
- How would you describe the patient demographics?
- What community service programs does your residency offer?
- What changes do you anticipate in the program during the next three years?
- In what ways is the program an innovator in education?
- Can you give me an example of how the program handles X, Y, or Z (Be specific. Ask about scheduling, leadership development experiences, away rotations, navigating different approaches to complex situation, etc.)?
- Can you describe the community? What do you enjoy the most/least about living here?

Questions for Residents

The time you spend with a program's residents is important to understanding what it would be like to become a resident with the program. Use these questions to ask current residents questions about the learning process, expectations, community service opportunities, lifestyle, and any other practical issues related to training.

- What was the most important factor that made you choose this program?
- What is a typical week/month/year like for a resident in PGY-1, PGY-2, and PGY-3?
- What is call like? What kind of backup and supervision is provided?
- When leave of absence becomes necessary, what happens?
- What community service opportunities are available?
- How do you and other residents deal with the stress of residency? What does the residency offer in terms of wellness programs?
- What do you and the other residents do for fun?
- How do you view other residency programs at the institution and what are your interactions with them?
- Which areas or processes are helping you learn the most?
- What are the program's strengths?
- In what areas could improvements be made to the program?
- What are your plans after graduation?

Women's Health and Obstetrics

Students who are interested in delivering babies after residency, or providing care in complicated or surgical deliveries may want to apply to programs that offer training above the minimum requirements. The average family medicine resident performs 48 spontaneous vaginal deliveries, including 10 with continuity patients from their own panels. Use these questions to ask about women's health and obstetrics care.

- Which obstetric procedures are available in the program?
- What are the learning processes for training in obstetrics? Which faculty teach obstetrics?

- If there is an obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN) residency, how do family medicine residents work with faculty and residents in that program? Which residents cover call for OB service?
- Could you describe the residency's relationship with the other departments or services that provide OB care?
- How would you describe the program's OB experience?
- How many deliveries does a typical resident handle in your residency? Will I have an adequate volume of deliveries in training to be trained to handle deliveries in practice? Could you describe options to have more or fewer deliveries, and what that might be like?
- How many continuity deliveries does a typical resident handle in your residency? Could you describe options to have more or fewer continuity deliveries, and what that might be like?
- Can you tell me about a resident who has (insert your own educational goals), and how she or he has accomplished that goal?
- Does the program participate in Reproductive Health Education in Family Medicine (RHEDI) certification for pregnancy termination procedures?
- If the residency program does not offer training in pregnancy termination, what are the options for me to receive that training?

Procedural Skills

A great resource on procedural skills you can expect to receive is the [Consensus Statement for Procedural Training in Family Medicine Residency](#) created by the Council of Academic Family Medicine organizations. Use these questions to ask about those and other procedural training opportunities in your residency interviews.

- Could you describe your curriculum as it relates to procedural skills in family medicine? Which procedural skills training does the program offer?
- What is your philosophy regarding procedural skills in family medicine?
- How do residents get exposure and training in procedural skills?
- How are procedural skills taught? Is simulation used, and if so, for which procedures?
- Which women's health procedures are taught? Is training offered in point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS)?
- Which procedures are regularly billed?
- Do residents work with other specialty departments or services for procedural training? If so, could you describe that relationship and your residents' role?

Leadership and Advocacy

- Does the program have leadership curriculum?
- Are residents supported in external or organizational activities?
- Does the program support time away from training to pursue leadership opportunities?
- Have your residents held external leadership roles? If so, which roles and how has the program made that work with residency schedules?
- How has the program balanced accommodating or opportunities that require time away from residency with the curricular requirements of the program? What arrangements could you potentially see making for (state your own interests)?

Global Health and International Service

- What is the goal of the international rotation?
- Can you describe the field experience (e.g., clinical activities, public health initiatives, community activities, patient education, or other activities)?
- What is the cost of international experiences to residents?
- What opportunities exist to seek additional funding for international rotations?
- Will I have professional liability insurance while participating in an international rotation?
- Will my employee benefits (e.g., health insurance, dental insurance, etc.) continue while I am abroad?
- How long are the rotations?
- What time of year do residents travel?
- Are certain years (e.g., PGY-1, PGY-2, PGY-3) prohibited from participating?
- In what country (or countries) do the residents engage in international activities?
- Have residents ever designed their own global health experiences? If so, can you provide some examples?
- What policies and processes are in place to ensure resident safety during travel?

- How many residents have participated in international experiences in the past two years? Can you provide some examples of their projects and experiences?
- Who are the faculty involved? What other international experiences have they had?
- Whom do I contact to get more information?
- Does the program accept medical students for trips?
- What are the didactics (e.g., lectures, reading, discussion, debriefing, etc.) of the rotation?
- Does the program accept residents from other programs for trips?

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

Not all residencies offer training in osteopathic manipulative therapy (OMT). You'll probably need to check availability.

- What access do residents have to faculty who teach osteopathic principles and practices?
- What opportunities does the program have for OMT procedures?
- Does the program bill for OMT?

Underserved Populations and Social Determinants of Health

Family medicine residency programs are specifically required to have residents assess community, environmental, and family influences on health. Ask these questions to learn more about the populations you'll be treating if you join a program.

- What are the clinic's primary patient population in the program? Are there opportunities to serve underserved patients?
- What is the program's training curriculum in population health? How will this prepare me to approach population health and health equity at my practice?
- How will I learn to address social determinants of health, population health, and the interface between primary care and public health?
- Where do residents see patients outside of the clinic (nursing homes, free health clinics, home visits, telemedicine, community health events, etc.)?

Anti-Racism, Diversity, Inclusion

Residency applicants reflect what's important to them in the questions they ask. Addressing racism and inclusion in your interview allows you to learn about what you may expect or experience at a program. It also allows you to convey to residency programs that this is an important issue they need to be actively addressing.

- What has your program done to join the anti-racism cause?
- What training and experiences are required and/or offered for residents to understand and address their implicit biases?
- How does your program ensure diversity in its recruitment?
- How does your program support residents and faculty who are underrepresented in medicine?
- Could you give me an example of how your program has supported a resident who has experienced discrimination by patients or colleagues?

Fellowships

While fellowships aren't required after family medicine residency, if you plan to pursue a narrower focus in family practice, use these questions to help you prepare for a fellowship.

- Describe your personal fellowship interests before asking the following question: How could this program prepare me for fellowship training?
- How will I receive adequate training to prepare me for a fellowship, while ensuring that it's not to the detriment of other aspects of my training?

Academic or Research Careers

- How does the program support the research interests of residents?
- How do residents meet their scholarly requirements?
- Can you describe noteworthy (or award-winning) scholarly activities of residents in the program?
- Does the program support opportunities to present or publish research? How does the program support residents for these opportunities?
- Are there opportunities to achieve additional graduate degrees during residency? Can you give me an example of a resident who's done this and how the curriculum was structured? How long did it take?

Sports Medicine

- Does the program offer curriculum in sports medicine? Does the program's faculty practice and teach these skills?
- Does the program serve patient panels with sports medicine needs?
- Could you describe the program's relationship with other specialty departments or services that provide sports medicine services or training? Do the program's residents have opportunities to work with or learn from those groups?

Integrative Medicine

Fewer than 15% of family medicine residencies incorporate integrative medicine practices into their curricula. Use these questions to ask about the program's approach to teaching and practicing integrative medicine.

- What is the program's philosophy on integrative medicine?
- How does the program incorporate integrative medicine into the practice and training?

Wellness and Culture

- Could you describe the program's wellness curriculum?
- What is your philosophy regarding resident wellness?
- How will the program's culture help me grow as a physician?
- How does the program assess resident wellness and well-being?
- How does the program evaluate whether it has delivered on residents' expectations, based on training opportunities they anticipated as an applicant?