

34 QUESTIONS to Ask When Selecting a **MEDICAL** **TRAINING** **PROGRAM**

**How to Select the Best
Medical Training Program to
Gain Clinical Hours, Advance
Your Future Education &
Achieve Your Career Goals**



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INTRODUCTION

When it comes to your future as a medical professional, choosing a training program is one of the most important decisions you'll make.

The one you select will not only shape your educational experience but also have a direct impact on your future career path. With so much at stake, it's crucial to ensure that the program you choose is best suited to helping you achieve your professional goals.

To make an informed decision, gather as much information as you can about the programs you're considering. While perusing brochures and websites is a good starting point, to get the information you really need, it's important to ask the right questions and get answers that will help you narrow down your options.

But what questions should you ask?

This eBook is packed with the ones you'll want to ask about any training program you're considering, covering everything from curriculum and clinical experience to costs and long-term benefits. Keep reading to discover all of the questions that will help you find the right fit.



QUESTIONS ABOUT

CAREER GOALS

The program you choose will play a significant role in launching your medical career, so it's extremely important to consider how well the program supports your ambitions and aligns with your interests.

Key questions to ask include:

01 How does the program support my specific career goals?

Different programs may have strengths in different areas of medicine. Whether you aspire to general practice or a specialized field, it's important to find out how the program will prepare you to work in these areas.

02 What are the program's success rates in placing graduates in my desired specialty?

Look into the program's track record for placing graduates into the specialty that interests you. High placement rates in your chosen field can be a strong indication that the program will be a good match.

03 Does the program provide assistance with career planning?

Find out whether the program offers career counseling services. These resources can be invaluable when it's time to plan your next career steps, whether that's looking for your first job or continuing on to medical school.

04 Does the program offer mentorship opportunities?

The medical field, guidance from an experienced mentor can make all the difference. Ask to see if the program offers formal or informal opportunities for mentorship from faculty, alumni, or professionals working in your field of interest.



05 Where are program alumni currently working?

Alumni outcomes are a good way to measure the program's effectiveness in preparing students for successful careers. Ask about where program alumni work, especially in relation to your desired specialty.

06 Does the program offer job search support after graduation?

Completing your training is just the beginning. See if the program has resources available that can help with job placement, facilitate networking opportunities, or provide other support services that can take you one step closer to securing your first medical role.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM

Understanding the curriculum is essential when determining whether a medical training program is properly equipped to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in your future career.

Key questions to ask include:

01 How are the program courses structured?

Depending on your preferred learning style, the way in which the program structures its courses can impact how effectively you retain the covered information. Are courses delivered in a traditional lecture format? Do they take a problem-based approach? Something else entirely? Find out how lessons are delivered and factor this into your decision making.

02 What is the balance between classroom learning and hands-on clinical practice?

Your future work as a medical professional will likely involve working directly with patients, so the program you choose should offer a good balance between theoretical “book” knowledge and practical experience.

03 How is the curriculum updated to reflect current medical practices and technologies?

Medicine is a rapidly evolving field, so it’s vital that the program you choose keeps up with the latest advancements and developments. Check to see how often the curriculum is reviewed and updated, and whether current medical practices and technologies are covered in the course content.

04 How is student progress evaluated?

Ask about how your progress will be measured – whether through exams, practical evaluations, or continuous assessment – and how feedback is given to help you improve your skill set and knowledge.



05 How does the program integrate technology into the curriculum?

Medical facilities across the country (and all over the world) rely on technology to provide the best patient care. Find out how programs include technology in the learning experience, such as through simulation labs or electronic health records (EHR) training.

06 How does the program prepare students for certification exams?

Certification exams are a necessary part of becoming a licensed medical professional; the program you choose should provide the knowledge you need to successfully pass these tests. Ask about the program's pass rate for the exam you're likely to take and what preparation resources are available.





QUESTIONS ABOUT ACCREDITATION

Choosing an accredited medical training program is a must, as it signifies that the program meets established quality standards. Furthermore, graduating from an accredited program can impact your career prospects, giving you an advantage with future employers.

Key questions to ask include:

01 Is the program accredited by a recognized accrediting body?

First and foremost, confirm that the program in question is accredited by a legitimate and recognized accrediting organization. Recognition from a reputable body ensures that the program meets a certain standard of education, sufficiently preparing students to become practicing medical professionals.

02 What is the history of the program's accreditation status?

A history of good standing with accrediting organizations indicates that a program has consistently provided a quality educational experience for students. Be sure to ask about the program's accreditation history, and give representatives an opportunity to explain any past issues or occurrences of accreditation loss.

03 How frequently is the program assessed by accrediting bodies?

Accredited programs are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the required educational standards. Find out how frequently the program is assessed and ask about the most recent outcomes of these assessments.

04 Is the program's accreditation recognized nationwide?

Graduating from a program whose accreditation is recognized throughout the country ensures that your qualifications will be recognized no matter where you choose to seek employment.

05 How does the program ensure compliance with accreditation standards?

Confirm that the program consistently meets or exceeds accreditation standards. For example, are there any processes in place for internal review and improvement?



QUESTIONS ABOUT

PROGRAM COSTS

In today's educational market and economic climate, cost is a top concern. Understanding the full financial commitment involved, factoring in any financial aid options and the long-term benefits of enrolling in the program, is an important part of making an informed choice.

Key questions to ask include:

01 How much does the program cost to complete?

Begin by getting a clear picture of the total tuition and fees required to complete the program. This will give you a good idea of whether or not the program fits comfortably within your budget.

02 Are there any additional costs for course materials or exams?

Some programs have additional charges on top of tuition, including for textbooks or exams. Make sure to ask about these extra costs so you can accurately estimate the total investment.

03 What financial aid options are available?

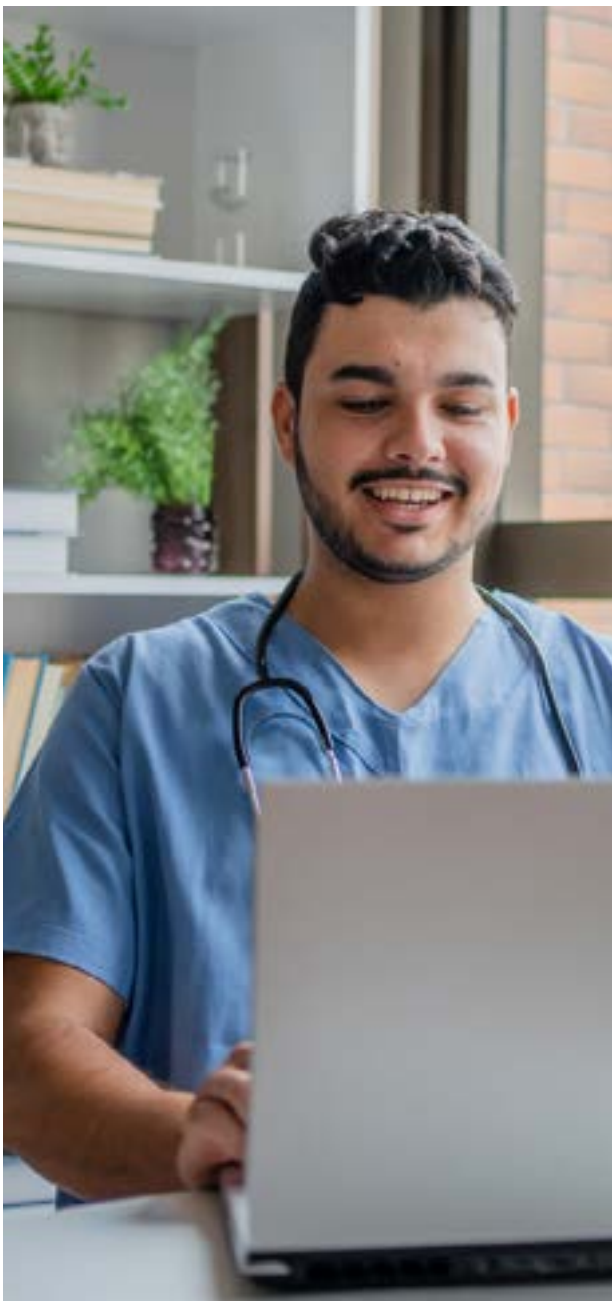
If available, financial aid can help to offset types of aid the program offers, being sure to note any specific eligibility criteria and deadlines.

04 Does the program offer any payment plans or options for spreading out tuition payments?

If the cost of the program makes paying upfront a challenge, ask about flexible payment plans. These allow you to spread out tuition payments over time, making the financial burden more manageable.

05 How does the program's cost compare with similar programs?

To be sure you're getting good value for your investment, it's important to compare the costs of different programs and see how they stack up before making a decision.



06 What are the long-term financial benefits of completing this program?

While the upfront costs are certainly important, it's also a good idea to consider the long-term value of completing the program. Ask about the average salaries of former program participants and job placement rates to determine the return on investment you can expect after graduation.

QUESTIONS ABOUT

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Getting practical, hands-on experience is an essential part of medical training, which means that the quality and scope of a program's clinical component can significantly impact your ability to develop the skills you need for a successful career.

Key questions to ask include:

01 What types of clinical settings are available?

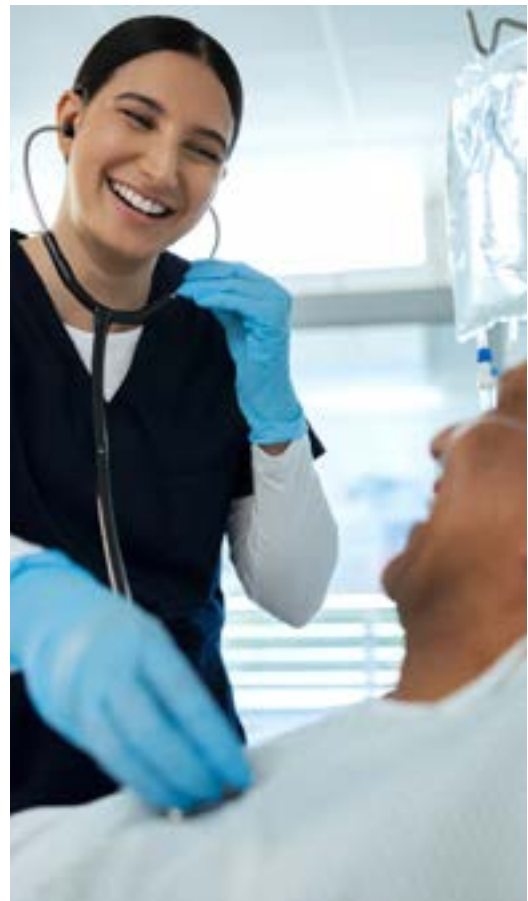
It's helpful to know as much as you can about the type of clinical environment you'll be learning in. Ask about the setting — for example, is it a physical location or a simulated environment — and consider how the answer aligns with your career goal.

02 What is the level of hands-on experience vs. observation?

Clinical experience is gained through both direct patient care and observation. Get more information about the balance between the two and the overall scope of hands-on learning opportunities.

03 How are students evaluated on the program's clinical components?

It's always helpful to know how your performance will be assessed, and the clinical component of your training is no different. Ask about the criteria and methods the program uses to evaluate students and the kind of feedback you can expect.



04 How does the program ensure that students meet all required clinical competencies?

You want to be confident that you'll have the clinical skills you'll need to excel once you complete your training. Find out how the program ensures that students become proficient in these skills before graduation.

05 What kind of simulation and lab facilities are available?

High-quality simulation labs and facilities can enhance your learning experience. Ask about these resources to find out how they are integrated into the program's clinical training component.



GENERAL

QUESTIONS TO ASK

When deciding between medical training programs, a broad understanding of what each contender offers is just as important as more targeted knowledge. Asking more general questions can help provide valuable insight into whether a program is the right overall fit.

Key questions to ask include:

01 What is the overall mission and philosophy of the program?

Understanding a program's mission, founding principles, and educational philosophy can help you determine if it's a fit. Values that align closely with yours could indicate a good match.

02 How long does it take to complete the program?

Depending on how soon you want to start working in the medical field, program length may heavily influence your final decision. Ask this question to get a better idea of how the program fits into your professional timeline.

03 What are the admission requirements?

Knowing the admission requirements will tell you whether you already meet the criteria needed to apply or if there are any additional steps you'll need to take in order to qualify.

04 Can the program be completed online?

To make training opportunities more accessible to students, reduce costs, and increase scheduling flexibility, it's common for programs to offer online courses or a fully online option. Just in case, it's a good idea to confirm that these options are available.

05 How accessible are the course instructors?

Students greatly benefit when instructors are available to them. Find out how available the program's faculty are for answering questions, giving advice, or lending other types of support.

06 Are externships or internships available?

These opportunities provide invaluable real-world experience and can make your resume stand out to future employers. See if an externship and/or internship program is offered and find out what kind of support is available when it comes to securing an opportunity.

CONCLUSION

When it comes to choosing the right medical training program, it's crucial to make an informed decision — and with these 34 questions at your disposal, you'll be able to get all the information you need to effectively weigh your options.

If you're searching for a self-paced medical training program that's fully online and specifically designed for pre-health students and aspiring medical professionals, look no further than Advanced eClinical Training.

Our range of affordable medical and pre-health certification courses prepare you for a rewarding career in medicine in just eight to 12 weeks. No matter which course you enroll in, you'll have access to expert instructor support, hands-on experiential learning opportunities, lifetime career services, and much more.

For more information about our medical certification courses, get in touch with the Advanced eClinical Training team. Or, enroll today to get a head start on your career.

FIND YOUR COURSE

