MD Consultants

Case study #4: Interviews but no acceptances

Academics

- School: McMaster University
- Program: Health Sciences
- GPA: 3.80-4.00
- MCAT: 12(V), 12(P), 13(B), S(W)

Extracurriculars

- Research: 2 honours thesis projects. 1 abstract. 1 conference presentation. No peer-reviewed publications
- Hospital volunteering
- Vice-President of University Debate Club
- Volunteer medical mission in Nicaragua
- Additional leadership experiences within church and summer camp
- Provincial level competitive rugby

Goals

- Medical school admission in Ontario
- Previously applied to 5 medical schools in Ontario, received 3 interviews, was waitlisted at 2 schools but 0 acceptances.

Diagnosis

- Excellent GPA and MCAT, above-average extracurriculars, likely poor interviewing skills as reflected by a 60% application→interview conversion during his 1st application cycle and a 0% interview→acceptance conversion.

Plan

- Applied to the exact same schools as the previous year as staying in Ontario was a priority for this student. Intense interview preparation would likely be the key to success this time round.

Approach

- This student approached us in June of his graduating year after receiving multiple rejections. A diagnostic mock interview with one of our experienced consultants quickly revealed that the student was surprisingly candid in his approach to the interview and gave off several "red flags" to the trained observer. Given the student's desire to focus on Ontario, assistance was provided with personal statements as well to maximize his number of interviews

- This student received 5/5 interviews. This was actually unsurprising given the excellent stats. The student was then paired with 5 different consultants, one from each of the medical schools in Ontario.

- Prior to interview season, he attended our Interview Crash Course that to kickstart his self-preparation for the interview. This session covered topics such as the rationale behind certain interview questions,

understanding what interviewers are seeking, and body language 101.

- Closer to interview season, he received 1-3 hours of intense mock interview preparation and coaching from each consultant.

Result

- Accepted at 3/5 schools and waitlisted at one other
- Attended McMaster University which was the student's first choice.
- Continues to be mentored by MD Consultants during medical school

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