

# Residency Interview Sample Question

**“As a student extern, what is one skill or area of knowledge you feel you need to improve on, and what steps are you taking to work on this?”**

This question helps assess your self-awareness and willingness to learn. It shows that you're not only aware of areas needing improvement but are also proactive in your approach to learning. The interviewer will likely appreciate responses that include specific steps, like seeking feedback, practicing skills, or using educational resources.

- 1. Be Honest and Self-Aware:** Choose a genuine area you'd like to improve. This could be a clinical skill, knowledge gap, or aspect of patient interaction. Avoid choosing something overly critical (e.g., "I struggle with time management"), but also avoid something too minor (e.g., "I need to learn more medical abbreviations").
- 2. Explain Why It's Important:** Briefly describe why this skill or area of knowledge is valuable. This shows that you understand the relevance of what you're working to improve.
- 3. Describe Specific Steps:** Share what you're actively doing to improve, such as:
  - Reviewing relevant anatomy or surgical techniques.
  - Seeking additional feedback on your performance during cases.
  - Practicing hands-on skills (e.g., suturing techniques or casting).
  - Attending relevant workshops or shadowing physicians in those areas.
- 4. End on a Positive Note:** Express your enthusiasm about the opportunity to develop this skill further during residency. Showing a willingness to learn and grow in a real-world setting highlights your commitment to improvement and adaptability.