

Specialty Advising: Neurology
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Advising Efforts

Students are encouraged to contact the Specialty Advisor for individualized attention.

Residency Planning Q & A

To be considered for this specialty, what is the Step 1 score range?	There is a wide range of acceptable scores, the mean score published by the AAMC for applicants in 2016 was 229 for Step 1 and 239 for Step 2.
Do students need to be at the top of the class to be competitive in this specialty?	Top of the Class has the most choices; Bottom of the Class still matches. There is a wide range of programs and slightly fewer American graduates than spots nationwide. The increasing numbers of Foreign graduates has made things more competitive than 10 years ago. The top places remain very competitive, but still the vast majority of American graduates match.
Is research a strong consideration for candidacy in this specialty?	It is likely to help at the most competitive programs, but most programs are clinically based.
How important are away electives? Acting Internships?	Acting Internships are an important way to impress your colleagues, especially letter writers. Away electives are important to put a face to your applications among the many. This is most useful if there is a particular program they are interested in. More than two away electives is impractical.
If students did well on Step 1, should they try to take Step 2 before Rank Order Lists are due?	I would post a Step 2 score if you are trying to strengthen your application.
Should letters of recommendations all come from this specialty or should also have others?	It helps if the chair or other well-connected physician in the specialty writes one of the letters. It is helpful if the majority of writers are neurologist, but strong letters from any respected person are welcome.
What do you want students to know about your program in particular	We have a strong clinical training program with excellent variety, our residents get very comfortable taking care of Stroke and ICU patients and afterwards land excellent fellowships. Dr. Bradshaw runs a very supportive ship.
Does your specialty REQUIRE a Chair's letter?	No