

Specialty Advising: Ophthalmology
 Dr. Robert Fechtner, Chair & Specialty Advisor
 Dr. Robert Swan, Residency Directory & Specialty Advisor
 Updated June 2017

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?	Candidates scoring less than 220 are at a disadvantage though we do consider a few candidates below this mark if other parts of their CV are exceptional.
Do students need to be at the top of the class to be competitive in this specialty?	The majority of candidates offered an interview and finally accepted are usually in the top third of their class.
Is research a strong consideration for candidacy in this specialty?	While research experience can reflect an early interest, lack of research experience does not prevent candidates from being considered at most programs.
How important are away electives? Acting Internships?	We suggest one or two away Ophthalmology electives at most. Since Ophthalmology incorporates most aspects of medicine and surgery, well-rounded undergrad training is important.
If students did well on Step 1, should they try to take Step 2 before Rank Order Lists are due?	Students who scored well on Step 1 would be helped by a similar performance on Step 2 and disadvantaged by a poor score. Candidates who did well on both Step 1 and Step 2 may have an advantage over those who did well on Step 1 but delayed Step 2 as a tactical decision.
Should letters of recommendations all come from this specialty or should also have others?	One or two letters from Ophthalmology but at least one letter from a major department such as Internal Medicine or Surgery, preferably from someone who knows them well.
What do you want students to know about your program in particular	The Ophthalmology Residency is a strong clinical program and the residents work hard. Review the Department website for elective and contact information. We encourage our students to do a rotation in the department.
Does your specialty REQUIRE a Chair's letter?	No. A chair letter is not required.