

Specialty Advising Q & A updated 2-21-2020

Question	Anesthesiology	Dermatology	Emergency Medicine	Family Medicine	Internal Medicine	Med-Peds	Neurology	Neurosurgery	Ob-Gyn	Ophthalmology
Career Advocates/ Specialty Advisors	Sebastian Thomas Robert Calimlim	Ramsay Farah	Matthew Sarsfield	Heather Finn	Stephen Knohl Sarah Lappin	Andrea Shaw Melissa Schafer	Michael Vertino	Larry Chin	Robert Silverman Leah Kaufman	Robert Fechtner Robert Swan
Mean Step 1 & 2 of Matched Applicants <small>(from NRMP Charting Outcomes, class of 2018)</small>	232 & 244	249 & 256	233 & 247	220 & 237	233 & 246	235 & 250	231 & 242	245 & 249	230 & 247	Step 1: 244 (Avg. from SF Match)
Research Required?	No; May be attractive to most competitive programs	Always a bonus; Scholarly endeavors just as impressive as bench-side work	Not Required	No, but may be a "stand out" feature, especially if in a clinically relevant topic or showcases something you're passionate about	Not required; but attractive	Not required but could add to a "holistic" review of application	No; May be attractive to most competitive programs	Generally, a strong consideration. Essential for some programs.	Not required but helps to stand out; most competitive will require.	Can reflect an early interest but lack of does not prevent consideration
Acting Internships and Away Electives	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Away is important since there is no program here. Take elective here first	Complete Acting Internship here first. More programs are recommending or requiring aways.	Acting Internships are very important. Aways can be helpful if you show up and shine right away at a specific program of interest. Otherwise, not required.	Acting Internship here; Specialty does not expect Aways.	Acting Internships are key. Medicine preferred over peds if not able to do both. The quality and intensity of the experience is most important and should reflect independent responsibility for increased number of patients; Aways are not.	Do Acting Internship here first and always if very interested in specific programs	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	1-2 at most. Well-rounded training in medicine and surgery most important
From Whom Should Letters of Recommendation Come?	1-2 from Anes; others from acute care	Dermatologists from academic institutions preferred.	At least 2 SLOE-format letters required from Academic EM faculty	Get 4 with at least 1 from FM, but strong letters from Primary Care work too. Best letters are those who know you well.	Chair; 1-2 from IM faculty here; 1-2 from strong clinical advocate	Aside from chair letters, LoRs should come from those who know you well.	Majority from Neuro, but strong letters are most important	Best to come from within specialty	Generally need 3 strong letters with knowledge of student most important. Usually in ObGyn and Chair	1-2 from within specialty and at least 1 from core clerkship, IM or Surgery recommended
Is a Letter from the Chair Required?	Specialty does not; some programs do	See Above	No	No. Letters should be from docs who worked with you.	Yes	Recommended from each specialty	No, but could help	No, but unusual not to have one	No, but can help	No, but chair will meet with all applicants

Specialty Advising Q & A

Question	Ortho Surgery	Otolaryngology (ENT)	Pathology	Pediatrics	PM&R	Plastic Surgery	Psychiatry	Radiation Oncology	Radiology	Surgery	Vascular Surgery	Urology
Career Advocates/ Specialty Advisors	Stephen Albanese	Haidy Marzouk	Michel Nasr Paul Shanley	Gloria Kennedy John Ervoes	Robert Weber Margaret Turk	Prashant Upadhyaya	Thomas Schwartz	Paul Aridgides	Michele Lisi Hal Cohen	Andreas Meier Robert Cooney	Palma Shaw	Gennady Bratslavsky Matt Mason
Mean Step 1 & 2 of Matched Applicants (from NRMP Charting Outcomes)	248 & 255	248 & 254	233 & 242	227 & 243	225 & 239	249 & 254	226 & 239	247 & 253	240 & 249 Diagnostic 246-255 Interventional	236 & 248	Gen Surg scores as two year pre-req.	245 & 248
Research Required?	Varies by program. Quality of project and level of participation most important.	Not required; but attractive	Always a bonus	No; May be attractive to most competitive programs	No, but may be a "stand out" topic during interview	Yes and most desirable if in plastics though strong activity in other fields is good.	No; May be attractive and assist in ranking if published	No; May be helpful	No; May be helpful	Can reflect diversity of interests; does not prevent consideration	No, but is attractive to most competitive programs	No; May be helpful
Acting Internships and Away Electives	1-2 Always almost a "requirement" and serve as an extended interview	Do elective here first and always if interested in specific programs	Do rotation here first and always if interested in specific programs	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Do elective here first and always if interested in specific programs	1-2 Always almost a "requirement" and serve as an extended interview.	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Specialty does not have traditional AI's. Always not required. Strong performance in electives is essential.	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs	Doing an Acting Internship here would allow better exposure to the faculty to help with getting a good letter	Do Acting Internship here first and always if interested in specific programs
From Whom Should Letters of Rec. Come?	Generally from within specialty. Since field is small considered more carefully.	Mostly from within specialty.	A mixture; people who know you and can attest to your ability to work well with others	2-3 from peds faculty who can write you a "strong" letter.	Strong letters are best, regardless of specialty. At least one letter from a physiatrist.	From within specialty is best.	From within specialty is best.	At least 2 from within specialty	Two from within specialty and another from a different specialty.	Preferably from within specialty	It is better if this person has some national recognition for the field.	From within specialty is best.
Is a Letter from the Chair Required?	No, but noticed if absent	No	No, but couldn't hurt!	Varies by program but chair here will meet with all applicants	No. Letters should be from docs who worked with you.	N/A	No	No, but unusual not to have one	No	No, but pretty much a given if student is passionate about Surgery	If you worked with the chair. Otherwise, of little value.	No, but noticed if absent