

# Specialty Advising: Internal Medicine

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### Advising Efforts

<u>First and Second Year Students</u>	<u>Third and Fourth Year Students</u>
<p>The Department’s Undergraduate Education Director (Dr. Lappin) works with IM club officers to arrange an annual meeting to discuss careers in Medicine and to identify additional meeting topics with IM faculty to discuss case-based pathophysiology. Timing determined by IM club officers.</p> <p>During the summer after the first year, IM offers “The Clinical Experience.” This six-week, six-credit elective enrolls a select group of students and allows for full immersion into IM-related careers. In addition, participating students meet weekly with the Department leaders to discuss case-based pathophysiology and career options in IM. Students will hear about this when discussions begin about summer opportunities—usually a few months into the MS1 year.</p>	<p>During the spring of third year, a group meeting is arranged to discuss fourth year scheduling and beyond.</p> <p>During the summer of fourth year, a group meeting is arranged to discuss the upcoming interview season, The Match, and IM career options.</p> <p>Also during the summer of fourth year, a meeting is held to discuss the preliminary IM year at Upstate for those interested.</p> <p>Throughout third and fourth year, the specialty advisor and chair meet with students individually to discuss their CV, personal statements, interview season/process, The Match, and IM careers. These meetings are student-initiated.</p>

### Residency Planning Q & A

To be considered for this specialty, what is the Step 1 score range?	While there is variability among programs, generally one needs a 200 or higher
Do students need to be at the top of the class to be competitive in this specialty?	No; however, the stronger your resume, the more attractive you will be to the higher quality IM programs.
Is research a strong consideration for candidacy in this specialty?	No; however, should you be sound academically and you also have scholarship on your résumé, you will be more attractive to higher quality IM programs.
How important are away electives? Acting Internships?	While certain specialties consider this a must, away electives in IM are of little importance to IM Program Directors so don’t waste your time/money. Consider an AI a must at your home program; however, your transcript need not reflect that you’ve done an AI prior to applying, but rather that there will be an AI completed prior to graduation.
If students did well on Step 1, should they try to take Step 2 before Rank Order Lists are due?	All depends on the Step 1 score and, while not in common, some programs may request Step 2 CK be taken as a prerequisite for rankability. My advice is absolutely take Step 2 CK if Step 1 Score is <220, consider taking Step 2 CK if Step 1 score 220-235, and for those with a Step 1 score >235, I see little need in taking Step 2 CK (except, again, for those few programs requiring it).
Should letters of recommendations all come from this specialty or should also have others?	Beyond the required Chair letter, I recommend at least one of the three remaining letters be from within the Department; the remaining letters (two) can be from whomever can best advocate for the student.
What do you want students to know about your program in particular	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 98% Board Pass Rate since 2000.</li> <li>2) Excellent clinical training in three distinct hospitals geographically right next to one another with outstanding post-graduate placement in fellowship or primary care.</li> <li>3) “3 and 1” block system providing separation for inpatient and outpatient experiences.</li> <li>4) Innovative educational techniques such as Learning To TALK and Education Through Theatre Arts (a joint program between our Department and SU’s Department of Theater).</li> </ol>
Does your specialty REQUIRE a Chair’s letter?	Yes