

Specialty Advising: Plastic Surgery

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Updated May 2017

Advising Efforts

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

To be considered for this specialty, what is the Step 1 score range?	Typically in the top 10 percentile. Obviously, a less than stellar score does not preclude you as you can always make up in other areas, but is a good start.
Do students need to be at the top of the class to be competitive in this specialty?	Typically yes.
Is research a strong consideration for candidacy in this specialty?	Yes. Though research specifically in plastic surgery is very desirable, strong activity in any field is equally good. The candidate should demonstrate interest and ability in research which can be eventually molded into plastic surgery if so desired.
How important are away electives? Acting Internships?	Very important. The electives are basically are a way to interact with faculty in other institutions and to get strong letters of recommendation. Students should try to get electives in institutions where they would like to and have a decent chance of matching. This at least increases their chances of getting an interview call from that place.
If students did well on Step 1, should they try to take Step 2 before Rank Order Lists are due?	Please contact Dr Upadhyaya's Office to set up an appointment for any questions you may have.
Should letters of recommendations all come from this specialty or should also have others?	Ideally the letters should be from the chairman and then senior faculty of the plastic surgery department. However, in lieu of a strong plastic surgery department, strong letters from well known faculty in any specialty should work fine.
What do you want students to know about your program in particular	Plastic Surgery is a very very very competitive specialty and very difficult to get into even for spectacular students with all the letters and scores. Start early to build your CV. It is always a good idea to also apply to a back up specialty.
Does your specialty REQUIRE a Chair's letter?	