<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Anesthesiology</th>
<th>Dermatology</th>
<th>Emergency Medicine</th>
<th>Family Medicine</th>
<th>Internal Medicine</th>
<th>Med-Peds</th>
<th>Neurology</th>
<th>Neurosurgery</th>
<th>Ob-Gyn</th>
<th>Ophthalmology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Step 1 &amp; 2 of Matched Applicants</td>
<td>232 &amp; 244</td>
<td>249 &amp; 256</td>
<td>233 &amp; 247</td>
<td>220 &amp; 237</td>
<td>233 &amp; 246</td>
<td>235 &amp; 250</td>
<td>231 &amp; 242</td>
<td>245 &amp; 249</td>
<td>230 &amp; 247</td>
<td>Step 1: 244 (Avg. from SF Match)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Required?</td>
<td>No; May be attractive to most competitive programs</td>
<td>Always a bonus; Scholarly endeavors just as impressive as bench-side work</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>No, but may be a &quot;stand out&quot; feature, especially if in a clinically relevant topic or showcases something you’re passionate about</td>
<td>Not required; but attractive</td>
<td>Not required but could add to a &quot;holistic&quot; review of application</td>
<td>No; May be attractive to most competitive programs</td>
<td>Generally, a strong consideration. Essential for some programs.</td>
<td>Not required but helps to stand out; most competitive will require.</td>
<td>Can reflect an early interest but lack of does not prevent consideration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acting Internships and Away Electives</td>
<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Away is important since there is no program here. Take elective here first</td>
<td>Complete Acting Internship here first. More programs are recommending or requiring aways.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Acting Internship here; Specialty does not expect Aways.</td>
<td>Acting Internships are key. Medicine preferred over pediatrics 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.</td>
<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if very interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Whom Should Letters of Recommendation Come?</td>
<td>1-2 from Anes; others from acute care</td>
<td>Dermatologists from academic institutions preferred.</td>
<td>At least 2 SLOE-format letters required from Academic EM faculty</td>
<td>Get 4 with at least 1 from FM, but strong letters from Primary Care work too. Best letters are those who know you well.</td>
<td>Chair; 1-2 from IM faculty here; 1-2 from strong clinical advocate</td>
<td>Aside from chair letters, LoRs should come from those who know you well.</td>
<td>Majority from Neuro, but strong letters are most important</td>
<td>Best to come from within specialty</td>
<td>Generally need 3 strong letters with knowledge of student most important. Usually in ObGyn and Chair</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a Letter from the Chair Required?</td>
<td>Specialty does not; some programs do</td>
<td>See Above</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No. Letters should be from docs who worked with you.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recommended from each specialty</td>
<td>No, but could help</td>
<td>No, but unusual not to have one</td>
<td>No, but chair will meet with all applicants</td>
<td>1-2 from within specialty and at least 1 from core clerkship, IM or Surgery recommended</td>
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<td>Research Required?</td>
<td>Varies by program. Quality of project and level of participation most important.</td>
<td>Not required; but attractive</td>
<td>Always a bonus</td>
<td>No; May be attractive to most competitive programs</td>
<td>No, but may be a &quot;stand out&quot; topic during interview</td>
<td>Yes and most desirable if in plastics though strong activity in other fields is good.</td>
<td>No; May be helpful</td>
<td>No; May be helpful</td>
<td>No; May be helpful</td>
<td>Can reflect diversity of interests; does not prevent consideration</td>
</tr>
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<td>Acting Internships and Away Electives</td>
<td>1-2 Aways almost a &quot;requirement&quot; and serve as an extended interview. Do elective here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Do rotation here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Do elective here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>1-2 Aways almost a &quot;requirement&quot; and serve as an extended interview.</td>
<td>2-3 Aways almost a &quot;requirement&quot; and serve as an extended interview.</td>
<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
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<td>Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs</td>
<td>Specialty does not have traditional AI's. Aways not required. Strong performance in electives is essential.</td>
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<td>From Whom Should Letters of Rec. Come?</td>
<td>Generally from within specialty. Since field is small considered more carefully.</td>
<td>Mostly from within specialty.</td>
<td>A mixture; people who know you and can attest to your ability to work well with others</td>
<td>2-3 from peds faculty who can write you a &quot;strong&quot; letter. Strong letters are best, regardless of specialty. At least one letter from a physiatrist.</td>
<td>From within specialty is best.</td>
<td>From within specialty is best.</td>
<td>At least 2 from within specialty</td>
<td>Two from within specialty and another from a different specialty.</td>
<td>Preferably from within specialty</td>
<td>It is better if this person has some national recognition for the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a Letter from the Chair Required?</td>
<td>No, but noticed if absent</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No, but couldn't hurt!</td>
<td>Varies by program but chair here will meet with all applicants</td>
<td>No. Letters should be from docs who worked with you.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No, but unusual not to have one</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No, but pretty much a given if student is passionate about Surgery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Required?
- **Ortho Surgery:** Varies by program. Quality of project and level of participation most important.
- **Otolaryngology (ENT):** Not required; but attractive
- **Pathology:** Always a bonus
- **Pediatrics:** No; May be attractive to most competitive programs
- **PM&R:** No, but may be a "stand out" topic during interview
- **Plastic Surgery:** Yes and most desirable if in plastics though strong activity in other fields is good.
- **Psychiatry:** No; May be helpful
- **Radiation Oncology:** No; May be helpful
- **Radiology:** No; May be helpful
- **Surgery:** No, but is attractive to most competitive programs
- **Vascular Surgery:** No; May be helpful
- **Urology:** No, but is attractive to most competitive programs

### Acting Internships and Away Electives
- **Ortho Surgery:** 1-2 Aways almost a "requirement" and serve as an extended interview. Do elective here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Otolaryngology (ENT):** Do rotation here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Pathology:** Do elective here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Pediatrics:** Do elective here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **PM&R:** 1-2 Aways almost a "requirement" and serve as an extended interview.
- **Plastic Surgery:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Psychiatry:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Radiation Oncology:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Radiology:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Surgery:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Vascular Surgery:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs
- **Urology:** Do Acting Internship here first and aways if interested in specific programs

### From Whom Should Letters of Rec. Come?
- **Ortho Surgery:** Generally from within specialty. Since field is small considered more carefully.
- **Otolaryngology (ENT):** Mostly from within specialty.
- **Pathology:** A mixture; people who know you and can attest to your ability to work well with others
- **Pediatrics:** 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.
- **PM&R:** From within specialty is best.
- **Plastic Surgery:** From within specialty is best.
- **Psychiatry:** At least 2 from within specialty
- **Radiation Oncology:** Two from within specialty and another from a different specialty.
- **Radiology:** Preferably from within specialty
- **Surgery:** It is better if this person has some national recognition for the field.
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- **Urology:** From within specialty is best.

### Is a Letter from the Chair Required?
- **Ortho Surgery:** No, but noticed if absent
- **Otolaryngology (ENT):** No
- **Pathology:** No, but couldn't hurt!
- **Pediatrics:** Varies by program but chair here will meet with all applicants
- **PM&R:** No. Letters should be from docs who worked with you.
- **Plastic Surgery:** N/A
- **Psychiatry:** No
- **Radiation Oncology:** No, but unusual not to have one
- **Radiology:** No
- **Surgery:** No, but pretty much a given if student is passionate about Surgery
- **Vascular Surgery:** If you worked with the chair. Otherwise, of little value.
- **Urology:** No, but noticed if absent