

Advising Checklist: M3

Goals

- Begin refining specialty options
- Discuss preliminary preparations for residency application
- Discuss decision-making strategies

Advising Framework

Third-year students must integrate what they learn about themselves with what they learn about specialties and experience in clinical rotations. Help the student think through what they are looking for in a specialty and career, including which experiences may have been a good (or bad) fit and what other experiences or information they need to start narrowing their specialty options. Provide contacts in the specialties they're considering to help them gather more information, reality-check their options, and prepare for applying to residency.

Questions for discussion

☐ Adjustment to clinical curriculum

- How are you handling the workload?
- Are you receiving the support you need academically and personally?

☐ Curricular concerns

- Describe your performance so far in your clinical rotations.
- What feedback have you received on your clinical evaluations?
- What electives would you like to pursue?
- How would you like to order your fourth-year rotations?
- Describe your preparation for USMLE Step 2 CK and CS.

☐ Specialty choice

- What specialties are you currently interested in?
- What rotations have you completed so far?
- What have you liked/disliked about your rotations?
- How do you feel about
 - providing inpatient versus outpatient care?
 - working with different age ranges?
 - working with one or both genders?
 - providing diagnostic-oriented care vs. performing procedures?
 - dealing with breadth versus depth of patient problems?
 - providing short-term versus long-term or continuous care?

- having direct versus indirect communication with patients?
- shift-work versus non-shift work
- Have your rotations confirmed your interests?
- Have you explored your specialty interests outside of predominantly hospital-based practices?
- How competitive are you for the specialties you're considering?

☐ **Exploring residency**

- Where are you considering applying for residency?
- What factors are most important to you in considering where you'd like to complete your training?

☐ **Decision-making strategy**

- What other information or experiences do you need that will help you narrow your options?
- What barriers or concerns do you have or foresee about choosing your specialty?

☐ **Preparing for residency application**

- How familiar are you with the residency application and match process?
- Have you requested letters of recommendation from faculty?
- What is your parallel plan if you fail to match into your preferred program or specialty?

CiM Tools and Resources available on www.aamc.org/cim

- Specialty profiles
- Compare Specialties tool
- Medical Specialty Preference Inventory (MSPI)
- Physician Values in Practice Scale (PVIPS)
- Physician Skills Inventory (PSI)
- Specialty Indecision Scale (SIS)
- Clinical Rotation Evaluation
- Residency and Fellowship Program Search
- CV samples

Other Tools and Resources

- AAMC's [Electronic Residency Application Service \(ERAS\)](#)
- AAMC's [Visiting Student Learning Opportunities \(VSLO\)](#)
- AAMC's [Extramural Electives Compendium](#)
- The [National Resident Matching Service \(NRMP\)](#)

Find this checklist on the CiM website at <https://www.aamc.org/cim/advisors-liaisons/advising-checklists>