

Advising Checklist: M4

Goals

- Conduct a reality-check on specialty choice options
- Prepare plan and timeline for residency application and supporting materials
- Review program application materials
- Discuss residency program selection, interviews, and ranking

Advising Framework

Fourth-year students focus intently on applying for residency, interviewing, and the Match. Discuss the student's specialty choice and qualifications for the specialty/ies and programs they're targeting. Help undecided students decipher the cause of their indecision and support their steps toward a decision. Prepare for difficult conversations with unrealistic students by presenting current and relevant match outcomes data, and help brainstorm other or back-up options, as needed. Review personal statements and practice tough interview questions. Check in periodically during the application and interview process to ensure a robust interview schedule and successful match.

Questions for discussion

- ☐ **Curricular concerns**
 - What senior year rotations have you completed?
 - What electives have you completed?
 - Describe your performance so far in your clinical rotations.
- ☐ **Specialty choice**
 - What factors are most important to you in choosing a specialty?
 - What specialty/ies are you considering?
 - How well do your qualifications match with the specialty/ies you're considering?
 - How confident are you in your specialty decision?
 - If you're undecided, what would help you to make a decision and how can I help?
- ☐ **Selecting programs**
 - Where are you considering applying for residency?
 - What factors are most important to you in considering where you'd like to complete your training?
 - How many programs are you planning to apply to?
- ☐ **Residency application, interviewing, and the Match**
 - Who have you requested letters of recommendation from?
 - Would you like me to review your personal statement? Have you had other people review your personal statement?
 - How prepared do you feel to interview? What questions do you have about the interview process?
 - What have you done to budget or ensure you have the financial resources for interview travel?
 - What programs have you interviewed for so far? How have you liked them?
 - How many programs do you plan to rank?

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

- Specialty profiles
- Compare Specialties tool
- Residency Preference Exercise
- Residency and Fellowship Program Search
- Specialty Indecision Scale (SIS)
- CV samples
- Frequently Asked Interview Questions

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 Program \(NRMP\)](#)
- The [San Francisco Matching Program](#)
- The [American Urological Association Residency Matching Program](#)

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