

(Specialties listed in Alphabetical Order)

Anesthesiology: pp. 1-7
 Emergency Medicine: pp. 7-9
 ENT (Otolaryngology): pp. 10-12
 Family Medicine: pp. 13-21
 Internal Medicine: pp. 21-32
 Neurology: pp. 32-36
 Ob/Gyn: pp. 36-48
 Orthopaedic Surgery: pp. 48-52
 Pediatrics: pp. 52-66
 Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation: pp. 66-70
 Psychiatry: pp. 71-73
 Radiology (Diagnostic): pp. 73-76

Anesthesiology

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Anesthesiology _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? Only applied to anesthesia

3. How many programs did you apply to? 24 – interviewed at 12 _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Freida, Student Doctor Net, friends _____

5. How many interviews did you do? 12 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? 90% paid for lodging – none paid for travel
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$1500 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why are you interested in anesthesiology?

-
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No one ever mentioned my scores _____
-
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? July28 at UT _____
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Sept23 in LA _____
-
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? I only used crush step 2 and USMLE world and got 92nd percentile.. I read first aid for step 2 during my family clerkship and thought it was awful _____
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aid – only the first 100 pages – don't waste more then 3 days looking over the book _____
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Don't spend more than 8 weeks doing aways. They are expensive and you will get tired of being on top of your game every day. You don't want to burn out or be broke. I got both parts of step2 done early and thought it was ideal. I would have done CS during the end of 3rd year if I did it again. Personal statement is only a page, don't sweat it. Honestly, the thing interviewers will always ask about is your activities. Be prepared to talk about them at length. _____
-
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 4 weeks at Stanford and 4 weeks at UofM _____
-
18. When did you do away electives? September and November _____
-
19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and my own research on programs not participating in VSAS _____
-
20. When did you apply for away electives? Michigan, Loyola, UC Irvine, Stanford _____
-
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Find the current 4th years and ask them! _____
-
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? It helps. Especially if you can get LOR from the program _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? None _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Every place offered during the initial interview ____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No _____
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12 _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) ANESTHESIOLOGY
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 70+
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Freida, SDN, current residents in anesthesia, Alumni of UTCOM, Program's website. Its best to pick broadly "community vs academic" "categorical vs preliminary" and based on location. Each single program has positives and negatives.
5. How many interviews did you do? 12
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December, January
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No, prelim spots offered
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Roughly \$4,000, I drove a lot to save money. I could've avoided long shot interviews to save money, but that's a personal choice.
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? **Do you have any questions for me?** ← have some great questions for them.. trailer your question to the individual's seniority level: don't ask the chief resident about the future of anesthesia that's a question you could ask the chairperson. If you have no questions for them make sure you ask them what they look for in a resident. **Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** Probably trying to gauge how well you've considered the specialty. **What are some of the downsides of Anesthesia? Do you plan on doing a fellowship? Why Anesthesia? Tell me about your Anesthesia rotations. For preliminary medicine I was asked a few times why I hadn't done a Sub-I in medicine yet? Most likely you will be doing Anesthesia aways/sub-I's.** _____
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? **I took step 2 early, had my grade back before interview season started.** _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? **In August, at UTCOM.** _____
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? **In Late August, in LA. Took a day off from my away.** _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? **UWorld, DIT, Step up to Medicine, Step up to Step 2, Secrets.** _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? **Kaplan CS book – awesome.** _____
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? **DON'T check your suit! Take NOTES on the interview trail! Make a checklist of things that are important to you and just rate the program asap, don't wait until ROLs are due, you will forget a lot. People will give you emails, keep in touch with the program director/residents (very time consuming and its up to you if you want to do this – I did). Residency application is a lot easier than med school apps so don't stress too much over it. Schedule interviews early! I made the mistake of scheduling interviews late in the game, and was forced to decline interviews from great programs that came late in the game! Call to see if you can move up interviews if a spot becomes available. Get them out of the way. Its probably not a bad idea to interview at your potential #1 last. You will be a much better interviewer by the end of the process plus people will remember you better. Send thank you letters ASAP! Try to include a picture of yourself in the thank you note, they won't remember your name, but they'll remember your face.** _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? **3, all in Los Angeles area (USC, Harbor-UCLA, UCLA-Olive view) – UCLA-Olive view doesn't have an anesthesia program, but I did it for experience. No residents = lots of procedures for the medical student :).** _____
18. When did you do away electives? **Aug, Sept, Oct** _____
19. Where did you find info on away electives? **VSAS & university/program website, also utcom alumni** _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? Early!!
-
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Don't waste your electives with something that's just easy. I didn't take it easy. I took MICU, Cardio, Neuro, in addition to the a few anesthesia months. You're a fourth year, so your grades are probably going to be Honors anyway, might as well try to get something out of it.
-
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes, it increased my chances, but it won't do miracles. It will get you noticed, but you will have to be a decent candidate for the program – an away at MGH won't necessarily get you into MGH on its own, but it could get you a great letter for another program. Be realistic.
-
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? Yes
-
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes – Some programs will just tell you they want you to come back, some really favor people who rotated, some really favor students from their own region.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? At least 50% told me to rank them #1.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? Sort of, I was told: "promise to rank us #1 and we will rank you high"
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms)
Anesthesiology

Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? Medicine Prelim and Transitional Years for PGY-1 but Anesthesiology was the only Categorical specialty pursued

1. How many programs did you apply to? 25 Anesthesiology, 10 Med Prelim, 2 TY

What were the best sources of info about programs? Chair of UTMC program, upperclassmen, emailed programs and spoke to current residents, SDN

2. How many interviews did you do? 14 Anesthesia, 2 TY/Prelim although some Anesthesia interviews let me rank the programs associated prelim years w/out an extra interview

3. What month did most of your interviews take place? December/Jan

4. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Lodging, yes. Travel, no _____
5. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$1500 _____
6. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____
7. What was your most frequently asked interview question? I got a lot of questions about a very unique/confusing aspect of my ERAS application (pseudo-red flag). Second most common would be "why anesthesia?"
8. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? Took CK early. Got comments about my high CK score
9. When and where did you take Step 2CK? July of 4th year _____
10. When and where did you take Step 2CS? July of 4th year _____
11. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? UWorld, taking it early after 3rd year having had the shelf exams _____
12. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for CS _____
13. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? _____
Talk to the chair of the dept your applying to early to get advice and a feel for your competitiveness. Email places you're thinking of applying to and get a feel for the program/what they do, it doesn't hurt to express interest early and this can help you land an away. Your personal statement can be a great way to show your personality, mine definitely went off the beaten path... but, I got the approval from the chair here and it wound up getting a lot of positive comments on the interview trail. _____
- Addendum: not exactly sure what happened in the match. Perhaps an experimental PS wasn't the best idea.... Still, no one told me it was bad, to my face. *shrug* _____
14. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 3 aways. 1 at Cleveland Clinic, 1 at Wake Forest and a MICU away at WashU. _____

15. When did you do away electives? September-November _____
16. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS, the websites of the places I was interested in applying to and I wound up emailing a number of places to find out about the programs. I believe I also spoke to some upperclassmen about places they liked. _____
17. When did you apply for away electives? Spring/Summer of 3rd year. As early as the programs accepted applications. _____
18. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? I wound up doing aways at some programs with significantly different feels. This wound up guiding my residency applications. I would

suggest trying to do aways at different size programs with different focuses (private practice v. academic) in different regions to help guide your decisions later.

19. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? _____
Apparently not. I matched into my home program (last on my list, below all the places I did aways).
20. Did you do a second look after the first interview? Yes. _____
21. Where you asked to come back for a second look? I went back to the place I interviewed first (Mayo) at the end of the interview trail to ensure it still looked the same with seasoned eyes. The program wound up being my first choice.
22. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? One program did in an illegal way during my interview.
23. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No
24. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 14 +prelims
25. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? #14

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Emergency Medicine

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) **Emergency Medicine** _____
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No
3. How many programs did you apply to? 30
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Go to saem.org for a listing of all the programs by state. The programs' websites are the best resource about individual programs and I would definitely read the website before you go to interview day. Talk to faculty and residents you meet on away rotations but take everything you hear with a grain of salt as these are just individual opinions.
5. How many interviews did you do? 15

6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November-January (majority in December). Try to space them out if time allows as you do get burnt out. _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No. 3 paid for the hotel. Definitely not travel.
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Probably around \$800-\$1000 which is on the cheap end. Stay with friends and family if possible and organize interviews geographically. _____
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No, but again I didn't spend a ton. Plan ahead for it before requesting loan money. _____
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? "Tell me about yourself." "Why EM?" "What are your hobbies?" EM interviews are very laid back for the most part. That being said, sit down and think about how you'll answer questions so you'll be prepared. By the 5th-6th interview you will pretty much have the same routine answer to the common questions.
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? I took Step 2 in July so they had my score on my application. Never really came up in the interview. _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? I took CK in July at UTMC. _____
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? November in Chicago. _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE World (if you get through it twice you'll be golden). Also, Step 2 Secrets is a quick, easy read. Keep it simple for Step 2. _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? I read about half of First Aid for Step 2 CS just to get an idea of what to look for. It's basically just like an OSCE and you don't need extensive preparation.
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Get an early start to the whole process and get your application in on time. Probably within a week after the September 1st deadline is fine. Research programs early to get an idea of where you want to apply. If you're dead set on a particular region of the country outside of the Midwest do an away there as it shows that you would be willing to come to that part of the country. This will help you get interviews not only at the program where you rotated, but also other programs in the vicinity. Personal statements are really not too important so don't stress too much about it. Stay conservative with it and just explain why you like EM and what led you to that career choice. Interviews are really laid back but I would prepare and know how you're going to answer common questions. Be yourself during the interviews and always have questions to ask. You will be asked on every interview what questions you have. Having some well thought out questions that are pertinent but not the standard run of the mill questions can help. Research the website to be knowledgeable about the program as this can come across in the interview and it shows your interest. I think getting an early start on the interview season and scheduling the majority before Christmas is beneficial as you do start to burn out eventually. Lastly, get to know Dr. Marco and get a letter from her if at all possible. She is extremely well known in the EM community and that letter can go a long way.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? I did two aways at Indiana and Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. I would recommend doing no more than two. Definitely rotate at UT if you didn't during your 3rd year. These three months total is plenty. If you did a 4th month you would get asked on interviews why you did so many months of EM.

18. When did you do away electives? August and September
19. Where did you find info on away electives? On the programs' websites.
20. When did you apply for away electives? I got the elective at Indiana in February and Carolinas in April. Have you application for aways ready to send in on the first possible date that they accept applications as many are more or less on a first come, first serve basis.
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Enjoy 4th year and do some easy electives but also take advantage of doing things that will help you in EM. Things like anesthesiology, heart station, and dermatology are fairly easy electives but something you will learn things that will help you during residency. PICU at Toledo Hospital is a good AI. Radiology at UT is terrible, don't do it.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I think so, although I haven't matched yet. It definitely enhances your chances at getting an interview.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No. Only do this if you truly feel that you need it to learn more about the program. Don't do it to suck up as program directors don't care if you do it or not and it doesn't affect your ranking.
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Places offer during the interview day to come back and do a second look if you feel that you need it but I never was asked post-interview.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No they didn't and I doubt many programs do as this is an illegal question. You do, however, hear back from some programs that are interested in you via email and phone calls.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No. _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 15, everywhere I interviewed. You have to ask yourself if you would rather not match than be at a particular program. _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? Match day is a week away. Hopefully #1. _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

ENT (Otolaryngology)

Survey to help Underclassmen with the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) **Otolaryngology (ENT)** _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? **NO** _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? **98** _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? **Program websites, away rotations** _____

5. How many interviews did you do? **16 (offered 21, couldn't attend all due to scheduling conflicts).**
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? **Dec. and Jan. (had a couple in Nov.)** _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? **NONE** _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. **\$8,000 + (however this will vary significantly depending on how many interviews you are granted and the geography involved).** _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? **NO** _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? **Tell me about yourself. Why otolaryngology? Why this program? What do you do for fun outside of medicine? Tell me about your research.**

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? **NO** _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? **July of 4th year, UT** _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? **April of 3rd year, Chicago** _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? **USMLE World** _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? **FirstAid (case vignettes at the end). I studied for approx. 4 hours the night before. This test is very similar to OSCEs you complete throughout 3rd year.** _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?

Work on your personal statements and CVs ASAP (i.e. right now). You will need time to revise and whittle them down to the masterpieces that we all know they can be. If your specialty has faculty on this campus you should show these documents to several members and get their input. Don't make sweeping changes based on 1 person's ideas, however if many readers are telling you the same thing, then consider making those revisions. Have several people outside of medicine read your PS (family, significant others, etc.). Give yourself ample time in between revisions. Depending on your specialty/ program, the PS may be quite important. The consensus from my interview trail was that an average or good PS wasn't going to make or break your application, but a bad one (especially those longer than 1 page) could make you look very unappealing. Unless you have some sort of significant life experiences or research publications or presentations, try to keep the CV concise and down to a page or so. DO NOT include every little detail and every single activity that you did from college until present. Unfortunately nobody cares if you volunteered once or twice at a soup kitchen and listing every little thing will make your CV look very cluttered and disorganized. Include only those things for which you've had significant involvement. During one interview, a faculty member openly criticized one of the other applicants to me for how long his/her CV was. Don't be that applicant.

Apply broadly for residency. You can always reject interview offers, but it's quite difficult to secure them by applying to more programs once the selection process is underway. Therefore, pick out a number and apply to that many places from day 1. Skimping by saving money at this point in your career is ridiculous. This will be money well spent, especially if you're attempting to match into a competitive specialty. Submit your completed applications (i.e. necessary # of LORs, CV, etc.) to programs on the first possible day (ERAS opens on Sept. 1). You don't want to run the risk of not getting selected for an interview at a program for which you'd otherwise be competitive because all the spots filled while they were waiting on your application materials.

For interviews, be yourself. This advice is clichéd and has been stated before, but once you get into the meat of your interview season, you'll understand. Programs are looking for applicants with whom they could comfortably work for the next 3-7 yrs. With that in mind, your interactions with residents are important (for you and for them). These will be your future colleagues, and you'll be spending more time with them than anyone else in your life for a few years.

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? **Loyola University (Chicago), Indiana University (Indianapolis)** _____

18. When did you do away electives? **August and September** _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? **Program websites, VSAS website, Otomatch.com** _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? **The first day possible (I think it was May 1 for VSAS programs / deadlines vary non-VSAS programs).** _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? **Take electives which may help you in your respective field, or those which are interesting to you (which you may never see again). Maximize relatively easier electives to allow for Step 2 CK study time/ interviews, so you aren't forced to use flex time.** _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? **YES** ____
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? **NO** _____

24. Were you asked to come back for a second look? **NO** _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? **The program director of one smaller program said that if after my interviews I had a strong interest in training at their program, then to shoot him an email or note. Many programs asked where else I had/ would be interviewing.** _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? **NO** _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? **16** _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? **1ST CHOICE** _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Family Medicine

Survey to Help Underclassmen with the Residency Application Process

1. **Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to?** Family Medicine
2. **Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they?** No
3. **How many programs did you apply to?** 29
4. **What were the best sources of info about programs?** AAFP, AMA (Frieda), Program websites
5. **How many interviews did you do?** 17
6. **What month did most of your interviews take place?** Spread out between Nov, Dec, Jan
7. **Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel?** Most programs paid for dinner, many provided free lodging with residents. Travel was not covered.
8. **Estimate how much the interview process cost.** Flights - \$2128.30, Cars - \$578.26, Hotels - \$441.48
9. **Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews?** No
10. **What was your most frequently asked interview question?**
Why do you want to go into family medicine? Why our program?
11. **Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2?** No
12. **When and where did you take Step 2CK?** August 24, San Jose
13. **When and where did you take Step 2CS?** July 6, Chicago
14. **What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK?** Doctors in Training, Step Up to Step 2, Step Up to Medicine, USMLEWorld
15. **What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS?** First Aid for Step 2CS
16. **Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?**
(Jan-Mar) Update CV, figure out priorities and research programs.
(Mar-May) Apply for away rotations, work on personal statement drafts.
(May-July) Request letters of recommendation, complete bio sketch for MSPE
(August) Complete ERAS application, tie up loose ends (LoR, transcript, etc)
(Sept-Oct) Schedule interviews, follow up with programs.
(Oct-Jan) Interview. Smile! Be yourself. Ask questions. Second looks.
(Jan-Feb) Send any remaining thank you notes, complete rank list. Distract yourself.

The process to apply for residency is tedious, but more tolerable if you spread things out. Tweak your CV early in the year, and make sure it gets updated. Hopefully you will have a good idea of what you want to go

into, but its okay if you're not sure yet. Make a list of program attributes that are important to you (eg. location, education, etc) and start browsing FRIEDA to get a feel for what programs are a good fit. Go to national residency fairs if possible. Then start contacting your top programs for possible away rotations.

Start working on drafts of your personal statement during the spring, play with ideas and themes. Make sure you are able to convey your personality without going over the top. I would try to get a good draft prepared by May. Start thinking about possible letters of recommendation by the end of 3rd year, and I would get the requests in by July so you can get them ready by September. They will likely need a draft personal statement and CV at this time, which you should have already prepared.

Start working on your application in August, with the goal to be ready by September 1, or within that first week or so. Make sure your letters of recommendations are being completed, and send thank you notes once they are. You will feel so good once you submit that application.

Most interview offers will go out by October, but it's not over until you get a letter saying they are not interested. I got an interview offer in January. Schedule your interviews by location if possible to save on time and money. I wouldn't schedule a top program first, as your first interview will help ease you into the season. The same goes towards the end of the interview season, as many people will get burned out halfway through the season, and the process is repetitive. Don't do more than 3 interviews a week if you can help it. The night before an interview, make sure you look at the program website and do a quick pro/con list. Ask questions during your interview, it is your chance to get to know the program. Always debrief yourself or talk it out with someone else the night after an interview. Fill out a worksheet if you are that organized. It will help you keep track. Write a thank you note to the program director (and/or e-mails to residents).

I kept a rough rank list during the interview season that was split in thirds: 1) programs I loved, 2) programs I hated, 3) everything in between. You can be systematic with the rankings using what's important to you, but gut feeling will play a major role. Once you get a program that in your mind is top choice, you may be inclined to cancel some interviews after that. That's fine depending on how complete the specialty is and how competitive you are as an applicant. For family medicine, most people interview between 6-8 programs. It's not recommended to make major changes to your rank list the day it's due.

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where?

Stanford/O'Connor Hospital – San Jose, CA (Family Medicine AI)

Kaiser Permanente Orange County – Santa Ana, CA (Family Medicine)

Asian Health Services – Oakland, CA (Pediatrics)

University of Minnesota/Methodist Hospital – St. Louis Park, MN (Family Medicine AI)

University of Minnesota Medical Center – Minneapolis, MN (Anesthesia)

18. When did you do away electives? July, August, September, January, February

19. Where did you find info on away electives? Residency Program Websites, VSAS

20. When did you apply for away electives? February – April

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?

Doing fourth year “audition” away electives at top choices is not a bad idea, and can boost an application. That said, it is a double-edged sword, and can also damage your application. It is also a good way to get a feel for a program by meeting faculty and residents that is hard to gauge during a one day interview. I would recommend doing “audition” electives in the beginning of the interview season. It can also be a source of a letter of recommendation.

Choose electives that will help fill gaps in your medical school education, not just ones that have amazing hours. Remember, this is your last chance to learn medicine without the full responsibility of the patient as an intern. It may also be the last time you get exposed to certain topics, depending on the residency you are considering. Be creative, there are some unique opportunities out there!

As far as scheduling, my general advice is to schedule audition electives early in the year (Jul-Nov) with a lighter rotation in between to serve as a break and/or time to study for Step 2. During the interview season (Oct-Jan), rotations that are flexible are recommended in order to take time off for interviews. That said, most rotations are understanding of interview season and will allow for some time off. After this, it may be hard to focus on rotations as the match and graduation are in sight. Enjoy any remaining flex time off. Having flex time during April or May is also good if one is moving for residency, as well as getting paperwork completed. That said, some people wish they had one rotation before graduation so they do not go into intern year having been away from medicine for 2-3 months. Just remember it will be difficult to focus during this period, but will also be the last time you can get away with being “just the med student.”

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program?

Yes, I was matched at a competitive residency that I had previously done an away elective at.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched? 2nd choice

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) **Family Medicine**
- 2.
3. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? **No**
- 4.
5. How many programs did you apply to? **One**
6. What were the best sources of info about programs? **Word of mouth/part of 3rd year clerkship for family med**
7. How many interviews did you do? **Two**

8. What month did most of your interviews take place? **December**
9. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? **N/A**
10. Estimate how much the interview process cost. **\$0 – both of my interviews were in Toledo**
11. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? **No**
12. What was your most frequently asked interview question? **What do you like most about this program**
13. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? **No**
14. When and where did you take Step 2CK? **October @ UTMC**
15. When and where did you take Step 2CS? **October @ Houston, TX**
16. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? **Crush for Step 2 and USMLE World QBank**
17. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? **First Aid for Step 2 CS (only read it at airport and on the plane ride down to Houston, TX and that was enough – only need to skim it)**
18. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? **Be confident. Do your research about the program you are interviewing at – any recent changes to program, new program directors, new faculty, problems with program or residents, etc. Be able to explain Step 1 & 2 scores if discussed. Be able to discuss any discrepancies with scores in a given clerkship. Have questions prepared to ask – remember that while they may be interviewing you, you are also interviewing them and you have to decide if this program is where you want to spend your time.**
19. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? **No – I wanted to stay in Toledo, so I did all 4th year electives in Toledo, although some were at different hospitals in town.**
20. When did you do away electives? **N/A**
21. Where did you find info on away electives? **N/A**
22. When did you apply for away electives? **N/A**
23. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? **At the beginning of 4th year, you need to do electives with the programs that you consider your top choices, or at least do electives in the geographic location where you want to end up doing your residency. After that, choose electives that are fun and that you will enjoy doing. Don't worry so much about preparing for your residency during the 2nd half of 4th year – enjoy the free time and try doing some low hour rotations or non-clinical rotations for extra free time – intern year will come fast enough, so really enjoy 4th year!**
24. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? **N/A**
25. Did you do a second look after the first interview? **yes**

26. Where you asked to come back for a second look? **I was told about it at the interview and then received an invitation in the mail and a phone call concerning the 2nd Look about 3 wks before it was.**
27. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? **No**
28. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? **No**
29. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? **One – but I was extremely confident in the fact that I would match there. I would not recommend this for most people, especially in competitive specialities.**
30. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? **1st**

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Family Medicine
 2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? no
 3. How many programs did you apply to? 21 (this was more than necessary)
 4. What were the best sources of info about programs? AAFP National Conference for Residents and Students, residents I met during away rotations, Global Missions Health Conference, AAFP website
 5. How many interviews did you do? 17 (this was too many; you don't need to do this many for family medicine)
 6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November, December
 7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? All paid for lodging, only a few for travel
 8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$2000
-

-
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? no _____
-
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Do you have any questions? _____
-
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? My scores were on my application because I took Step 2 in July _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? End of July at UTMC _____
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Mid-July in Houston _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLEworld (all I used) _____
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aid for CS _____
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Try to be concise and clear in your application, and make sure it is a reflection of who you are. Also, provide good descriptions of what you were involved in. **Come to interviews with lots of questions!!** Take notes at interviews, and start comparing programs early, before they all start to run together. Don't worry about interviews – most of mine were laid back. Don't talk about other programs at interviews; often program directors are friends and talk to teach other! _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 3 – JPS in Ft. Worth Texas, Self Regional in Greenwood, SC, and Via Christi in Wichita, KS _____
-
18. When did you do away electives? August, September, and October _____
19. Where did you find info on away electives? I emailed residents I met at conferences and looked on websites. _____
-
20. When did you apply for away electives? April _____
-
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Choose things that are interesting to you, don't just pick rotations because they have the reputation of being easy. _____
-
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes, it is a benefit to be known (as long as you work hard and are teachable) _____
-

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? Only at one program that I was still unsure about. However, I stayed one or two extra days at most places that I was very interested in, in order to spend time on service and meet more residents. This was very helpful. _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes, at some programs _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? None specifically asked, but there were a lot of phone calls and emails during the last couple of weeks before the rank deadline. _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 17 _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Family Medicine

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No

3. How many programs did you apply to? 25
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Internet and from the interview.
5. How many interviews did you do? 7
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Lodging only
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Suites (2)- \$500 (could have done this cheaper) I only drove to my interviews, including things I did for fun and one trip to the East Coast including many lobster meals: probably around \$1,000 generously.

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No, I took out extra loans for my wedding.
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why _____ program?
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? Early July I think, at UTMC
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Mid September in Chicago

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? Questions!!! I used USMLE World and Adam Brochert's Step 2 Mache Exam. I mostly used the books I used for the shelf exams to review because I was familiar with those.
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Just have fun, this is finally your time to show everyone who you really are and show all that you have accomplished. Take advantage of being in different cities and do your best to engross yourself with the people at each interview. But you have to have fun or you will burn out earlier.

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? I did my AI at The Toledo Hospital and I did one away at Cleveland Clinic-Fairview hospital (where I matched).
18. When did you do away electives? I did my AI in June (first rotation) and Fairview was in October.

19. Where did you find info on away electives? I luckily did not have to go through VSAS, so I was able to just call each of the programs and set it up that way.

20. When did you apply for away electives? Per above, not applicable

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Electives are great because you can tailor them to what you feel you want to learn. Or, if you just want to try and get as much time off as possible and work easy rotations you can do that too, and sometimes can even combine great learning with less hours. If there is something you want to weigh if you like for your future, rotate in it. If you don't think you know much about cardiology, then rotate in it, but be creative, you can call and find out what attending will be on service and talk to people to figure out how their rounding hours are. Many of the secretaries will just tell you if a certain attending rounds for a long time.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Absolutely.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No-none.
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes, but most places told me it was not necessary and purely for my own benefit in family medicine.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? Only one of the seven places I interviewed, they just wanted to know if it would be high, medium, or low.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 7

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? #1!

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Internal Medicine

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Internal Medicine
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? NO _____
3. How many programs did you apply to? 30 _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Talking to current residents in that program/Folder provided by programs on interview day _____
5. How many interviews did you do? 11 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Nov-Jan _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? NO _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. 1000\$ _____
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why do you want to come to this program?
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No, but I had already reported them _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? Chicago, 7/2010 _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Chicago, 8/2010 _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? World _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? FA _____
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 3, Northwestern, Loyola, University of Chicago

18. When did you do away electives? Aug/Sept/Oct _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS/School Websites _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? April _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? For Internal Medicine, my experience was that they can't really hurt you, but may not help you either. _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? No _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 11 _____

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st Choice _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) _____Internal Medicine _____
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? __No, just 1 _____
3. How many programs did you apply to? __33 programs. I participated in the couples match _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? __Program/University websites _____

5. How many interviews did you do? ____18 interviews _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? ___December and first 2 weeks of January ____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? ___Unfortunately, none of them did ____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. ___Probably between \$1500 - \$2000 _____
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? ___No, fortunately, I did not _____
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? __Why did you choose Internal Medicine? What got you interested in Nephrology? What makes you want to come here? _____
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? __No, I wasn't asked about my Step 2 score _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK?__ I took it on July 30th here on Toledo's campus _____
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? __ I took it on August 17th in Philadelphia, PA _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? __ First Aid for Step 2 CK and USMLE World _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? __ First Aid for Step 2 CS _____
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? __Get a head start on the residency application with stuff that is easily filled out because when push comes to shove, it will save you a surprising amount of time. As far as personal statements go, I was told by a program director to make it very cookie-cutter. Don't take risks with it because your personal statement won't necessarily help you but it can hurt you. Make it very standard, but most importantly have no grammatical errors. It shows you took time to proofread and edited the paper with care. Interviews are hectic, but for the most part are surprisingly laid-back. Many places don't ask "standard" interview questions, though a minority still do. Know yourself, in the sense have an answer to why you are going into the specialty you are going into, know why you would like to go to the school you are interviewing at, and have a standard reply when they ask you, "so tell me about yourself." Practice answers to these types of questions and to some "standard" interview questions, and you won't be caught off guard. _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? __ I did two away electives, one at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Nephrology, and I did my acting internship at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio _____
18. When did you do away electives? __ I did the one in PA in August and the one in Cleveland in September
19. Where did you find info on away electives? __ I used VSAS or the school's website for information
20. When did you apply for away electives? __ Around March and April _____
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? __I recommend taking Pathology case studies when studying for Step 2 CK – I took Step 2 at the end of July and felt that worked well for me. It made me feel prepared for my away electives and acting internship. I recommend doing your acting

internship early because this letter of recommendation is very important (possibly the most important). Independent Pathology is good for interviews because you don't have to be on campus for the rotation. The spring of 4th year, take it easy with electives that don't require much in terms of hours or preparation. I am doing a MICU month in April of this year to get a handle on important clinical stuff that I have forgotten all about – I'm not sure how good or bad of an idea that was, but I will find out soon! _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? __Doing my away elective at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania did not help at all, and am wondering if it hurt, because I was not offered an interview despite this. Doing the acting internship I believe did help. I did terribly on my 3rd year clerkship internal medicine shelf but how I performed on my acting internship made up for it. Be careful when doing aways. They are a double-edged sword. They can help, but if you don't perform to their expectations, it can hurt. Just keep that in mind when applying and when on your aways. _____
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? __ No, I didn't end up doing any second looks ____
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? __ No, I wasn't _____
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? On interviews, many (maybe 3-5?) programs would ask me where else I am applying to, and one program even asked me what my top three programs were. But no program actually asked me where I was ranking them. _____
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? __ No, I was never told that _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? __ I ranked 17 programs ____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? __2nd _____

If you have any questions or would just like to discuss your options, feel free to contact me! My e-mail is nids.vijay@gmail.com

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

- Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms)internal medicine _____

- Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No just IM _____

- How many programs did you apply to?30 _____
- What were the best sources of info about programs?programs own websites _____

5. How many interviews did you do? 11 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? January _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? no, I paid for hotel, several others had hotel discounts, however depending on the hotel it was sometimes cheaper to find my own _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$3000 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? no _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? why did you choose this program?
Strengths/weaknesses? (many different ways of asking this question) also, example of a challenge you
overcame? _____

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? no, already taken
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? August at UT _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? November in Los Angeles, CA _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? First Aid, USMLE World questions online

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for CS _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal
statements, interviews, etc? just be sincere in the personal statement. It doesn't have to be dramatic or super
exciting. Mine was pretty basic and down to earth. I just spoke my mind and I think my interviewers were
able to see somewhat what kind of person I am through that. And during interviews people brought it up on
occasion to say they agreed with something I wrote or liked how I wrote about something which was nice.
Relax at interviews... for IM they are not intimidating at all. Most run like a conversation, they just want to
get to know you and sell you the program. It's give and take; you get to judge them too! and it will get
repetitive, including questions, but at least you will become a seasoned pro and know what to expect ☺

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? University of Pennsylvania, OSU _____

18. When did you do away electives?UPenn- September, OSU- November _____
19. Where did you find info on away electives?ERAS _____

20. When did you apply for away electives?summer before(would recommend earlier to get sub-I's or more preferred rotations earlier) _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?would recommend doing 1-2 aways, pathology, radiology, derm _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program?yes and no, when the program is very competitive it is still difficult but it helped for OSU in terms of getting to know people and being able to talk about it during the interview _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview?no _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look?every program offered it to everyone for people's personal benefit, not to up your chances of matching _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? 1 program asked me what other programs I was interviewing at and how I was planning on ranking them. I mentioned some and gave a more vague answer expressing my interest to the ranking question since at the time I didn't know yet anyway _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there?no _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked?9 _____

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)?3rd _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? Internal Medicine

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No
3. How many programs did you apply to? 19
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? FREIDA and residency program websites; interview day and pre-interview dinners
5. How many interviews did you do? 13
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December and January
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? About half paid for one night in a hotel and the other half provided a list of hotels with special discount rates. No programs paid for travels costs.
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Probably around \$2,000-3,000. Most of my interviews were within driving distance. For the ones further away, I used miles for some free flights and I purchased tickets from Southwest when they had a Halloween super discount special.
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why medicine? Why this program? Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
11. Were you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? Mid July in Toledo
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Early November in Chicago
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? Doctors in Training course, Step Up to Step 2 CK, USMLE World
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for Step 2 CS
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Be true to yourself every step of the process because this whole thing is about YOUR future. If you aren't a creative writer, don't try to force an outside-the-box, fluffy personal statement that will be encouraged at the PS workshop. (I stuck with the well-established formula that is easily found online, wrote a very honest piece, and my interviewers loved it...and I felt better knowing it was really me and not something forced and fake.) Try to relax and be yourself at the interviews and dinners so you can get a good feel for how your true personality fits into the program.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Yes, I did an OB/Gyn elective at the University of Cincinnati and a Medicine elective at the University of Michigan. (I was deciding between the two fields at that time.)
18. When did you do away electives? August and September
19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and Visiting Student websites for individual programs

20. When did you apply for away electives? May and June
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? An away rotation is the best opportunity to get a really good feel for a program, so if you can afford it, definitely try to go to your top choice institutions.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I think it depends on the institution. I ended up matching where I did a rotation within the IM department, but I lived with a classmate during that month who got a great letter from his attending and in the end was not offered an interview. Certain regions (California, New England, etc) will be much more likely to invite you for an interview if you have rotated in that region and have a recommendation letter from faculty in that part of the country.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? It was offered, but I did not go
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? All 13 programs that I visited
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Internal Medicine
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? - Internal Medicine only
3. How many programs did you apply to?- Around 24
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? - Freida, Classmates, SDN
5. How many interviews did you do? - 11
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? - January (although I did a few in November/December)
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? - A couple paid for hotels otherwise it was up to the applicant.

8. Estimate how much the interview process cost? - Not sure but I would estimate around \$2000 or so.
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? - I took out the maximum allowed for an MS4 but otherwise I didn't need to take out any additional loans.
10. What was your most frequently asked interview questions? - Why this program? Where do you see yourself in the future? Do you have any questions? (it definitely helps to have questions ready to ask your interviewers). I was asked a lot about a unique research project (ecology related) that I did as an undergrad. Otherwise of my interviews were very conversational and a lot of people asked about my interests outside of medicine. It seemed like IM interviews tend to be relaxed and programs want to get you know you as a person. This seemed to be the trend with the experiences of the other IM applicants that I've talked to. It made the interview days a lot more relaxed and less stressful.
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? - Nope.
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? - I took Step 2 CK in November at the testing center here on campus.
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? - September in Houston, Tx. I would definitely recommend scheduling this exam early (the Chicago test center fills up fast and it takes awhile to get your score back). If Chicago is full, Houston is definitely another good option.
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? - USMLE World, Step 2 Secrets, Step Up to Medicine
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? - FA for Step 2 CS (especially the practice cases at the end)
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? - Enjoy the experience! I know it can be a stressful process but try to enjoy your time visiting different programs and meeting other applicants. Do some research ahead of time on the programs that you interview and have a few specific reasons for wanting to attend the particular program (I was asked "Why this program?" many times on the interview trail). Even if you have a lot of things that you are looking for in a program, don't discount the overall "fit" that you feel during your visit. I think being in an environment that you feel comfortable in is a big part of selecting the residency program that is right for you. I would **highly** recommend attending pre-interview dinners. These dinners were almost always very informal and a good way to get to know the residents and ask questions about the program. If you can, try to avoid scheduling back-to-back interviews. The interview process (while fun) can be exhausting and having two interview days in a row can be pretty tiring. Finally, when filling out your ERAS application, definitely pay attention to the area that asks about hobbies/interests. It seemed as though many IM programs tried to pair people up with interviewers who share both their subspecialty/research interests along with individuals that share your interests outside of medicine. For example, I'm a big fan of professional sports and outdoor activities (fishing, etc.) and I was surprised by the number of times that I was interviewed by someone who was a fan of the outdoors and/or pro sports. Any unique interests/activities that you have will definitely help you stand out and make good conversational topics.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? - I didn't do any away electives outside of the UTCOM system. I did a sub-internship in the MICU at Riverside early in my 4th year and would highly recommend it.
18. When did you do away electives? – Riverside in July.
19. Where did you find info on away electives? n/a
20. When did you apply for away electives? n/a

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? – In hindsight, I would recommend doing 1-2 away electives in IM if you can. I think it would be a good way to get LOR's from programs that you're interested in and also give you a chance to assess your own fit in a particular program. Regarding general electives, I had very good experiences on the Heart Station, Anesthesiology, Radiation Oncology, and Infectious Diseases here at UTMC. Fourth year is a great opportunity to learn about a variety of things that interest you (even outside of your intended specialty). For IM, I would definitely recommend an ICU rotation and scheduling other rotations that you feel would help you be better prepared for internship.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? n/a
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? - Nope.
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? - No, although I imagine that it would be possible if you ask a particular program.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? - Nope.
26. Were you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? – Nope.
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? - All 11 programs that I interviewed at.
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? – #1.

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much. – Again, enjoy the process! UTCOM trains you very well and past residents from our school have been very successful. I was really impressed with how many people on the interview trail commented on how much they enjoyed working with past graduates from our school. I would be glad to help out in any way that I can and feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions! MarkTUpton@gmail.com

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms)
Internal Medicine
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they?
No
3. How many programs did you apply to?
26 (note that in hindsight this is far too many for internal medicine)
4. What were the best sources of info about programs?
Talking to the UT program director, internet searching (student doctor forums, ranking systems, program websites).

5. How many interviews did you do?
12
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$ 3000
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews?
Eventually I had to after the season was done.
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question?
“Do you have any questions about our program?”
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2?
No, I already took it.
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK?
I took it at UT in July
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS?
I took it in Chicago in June
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK?
USMLE World
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS?
First Aid for Step 2 CS (especially practicing the scenarios with someone)
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year’s fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?

If you are doing internal medicine you don’t need to apply to more than 15 places because it is less competitive and you just end up losing money and canceling a lot of interviews. Just pick places you would like to see and try to do away rotations at your top 2-3.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? I did two:
One at Oregon Health Sciences and one at University of Washington.
18. When did you do away electives?
I did them August and September
19. Where did you find info on away electives?
The school website and the online thing that I forgot the name of.

20. When did you apply for away electives?

Can't remember, probably early though because I wanted to get them

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?

Apply early so you can get your first choice, do whatever interests you.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program?

I think so.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview?

No

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look?

No

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question?

No

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 2nd

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Neurology

Survey to help Underclassmen with the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to?

Neurology, Neurology/Internal Medicine
(tips for people applying to all specialties found here, too)

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they?

I applied to a good mix of categorical and advanced Neurology residency programs. For most of the advanced programs to which I was invited for an interview I applied to corresponding preliminary medicine or transitional year programs. Applying in Neurology is tricky because while the categorical programs are straightforward, the advanced ones are not. Some advanced programs are essentially categorical: you apply

for an advanced position that has a linked (“guaranteed”) preliminary year. Other advanced programs are truly advanced and you have to apply separately for a prelim/transitional year. **BOTTOM LINE: PROGRAM SPECIFIC.**

I also applied to one Neurology/Internal Medicine program at Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). This is a combined residency that is 5 years long: 2½ years of Internal Medicine (standard residency is 3 years); 2½ years of Neurology (standard residency is 3 years, not including a preliminary/transitional year). By the end of the program you will become board certified in both Internal Medicine and in Neurology.

3. How many programs did you apply to?

Technically 50. Includes: Preliminary Medicine (13), Neurology (35), Neurology/Internal Medicine (1), and Transitional Year (1).

4. What were the best sources of info about programs?

Student Doctor Network. Department websites.

5. How many interviews did you do?

Of 14 invitations for categorical and advanced Neurology positions I attended 13 interviews across the country. This does not include interviews for preliminary/transitional year. I also interviewed at MCW (Neurology/Internal Medicine).

6. What month did most of your interviews take place?

5 Interviews (1/week) from October 22 through Nov 19
 3 Interviews (1/week) from Dec 3 through Dec 17
 5 Interviews (~2/week) from Dec 30 through Jan 14
 1 Interview plus second look from Jan 27-28

7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel?

No programs paid for flight. About half paid for a night in a hotel.

8. Estimate how much the interview process cost.

Um...let’s put it this way: before I went on the interview trail I signed up for a Venture card where I receive 1.5 miles/dollar spent. I racked up about 9000 miles by the end of the trail.

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews?

No. I used scholarship money, which was almost enough to get me through. The rest was with the help of my parents.

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question?

“What got you interested in Neurology?” “Tell me about yourself.”

I was asked about my previous research experiences dating *years* ago. REMEMBER: *everything* you put in your application is *fair game* for an interview question.

Watch out for the interviewers who start out an interview by saying “so what questions do you have for me?” They may never end up interviewing you; rather, you’re interviewing them! This happened to me once and I recall getting very annoyed because I could not come up with more questions to ask (This was my last interview of the day, and it was only my 4th program on the trail so I was only getting used to becoming a broken record).

11. Were you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2?

I was asked about Step 2 CS a few times during the trail because I initially failed it. I was not at all asked about Step 2 CK as I passed it the first time around, albeit it was lower than Step 1.

12. When and where did you take Step 2CK?

CK: July @ UTMC

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS?

CS: 1st try in Houston (April), 2nd time’s a charm in Atlanta (September)

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK?

USMLEWorld and Secrets. I completed Doctors in Training but was unimpressed with it. I actually scored lower on Step 2 than on Step 1 in part because I felt like every other question was related to OB and Peds. I took OB and Peds from October-December and hadn’t seen the material since reviewing it for Step 1.

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS?

The best preparation for studying for CS is going through First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CS *with someone acting as the patient* (preferably NOT a medical student) *and with another medical student*. I first tried studying alone and it did not work for me.

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year’s fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?

Absolutely! Invest in the next four years of your life. I might have been a little overkill with the amount of \$ I spent for this whole process, but it is absolutely worth it in the end.

Nota bene: do not bank on “courtesy interviews.” These are interviews where if you rotated away for an elective they will automatically grant you an interview. Man’s Best Hospital (House of God reference) did not invite me for an interview even though I had done research there, rotated in Neurology there, and two of my four letters of recommendation to all programs came from there. Ultimately I think it was for the better, though, because I might not have been a good fit for their program. (Not everyone would thrive at Man’s Best Hospital, and I think that is perfectly acceptable because you will thrive in the environment that is best suited for *you*.)

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where?

I learned a LOT on my away electives at Massachusetts General Hospital (2 weeks stroke service, 2 weeks general ward service) and at University of Michigan (neuroradiology).

My August at MGH was a growth experience for me. I had accomplished a general neurology rotation at UTMC, but it was a different world at MGH being a quaternary hospital. You see cases that are challenging and difficult to treat, not to mention bread and butter cases too. Solid residents, long hours for me. However, I felt most like a resident here because I was involved and important on the team, although it took me a long time to get to that point. I can be a slow learner in the grand scheme of things, but I can be quick figuring things out.

My October at U of M was flippin' sweet! The clerkship director basically gave me no responsibilities whatsoever except to have a resident or attending signature for every day I was supposed to be there (Monday through Friday). This gave me the opportunity to learn the material on my own and to write a paper on it. (In order to High Pass or Honour the course I had to write a paper on a modern topic in neuroimaging; otherwise, just by being there you only earn a Pass.) No final exams or other assessments. During this month I had the time to check out some *amazing* performances through University Musical Society and to live/eat at a coop for the first time! I met some very nice people and got to hang out with them a lot. (I still had to pay about \$1000 for living in the coop, though, because I did not want to commute an hour to work every day.)

18. When did you do away electives?

(see above)

19. Where did you find info on away electives?

VSAS and homepages of institutions I was interested in for residency.

20. When did you apply for away electives?

EARLY! Early bird does get the worm: have everything ready *before* the application window opens up.

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?

ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Medical or Surgical Intensive Care. Depending on whether you are going into a medical or surgical subspecialty, or depending on the intern year you are looking for in the specialty you are matching in, an intensive care rotation is required. You will learn so much about how to take care of critically ill patients, many with multiple medical problems. It's like general medicine or general surgery on crack, but you're gonna have to deal with it (no puns intended) in your intern year wherever you go.

Emergency Medicine. Good prep for USMLE Step 2 CS and assessment of your general medical knowledge. Plus, it's *fun*.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance of matching at a particular program?

I think bottom line is that you will not be at a disadvantage if you do not go on an away elective. Going on one will help you learn about a particular program and whether or not you-program is a potential residency match.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview?

I could not believe the environment after my first look at Mayo, so I went back for a second look at Mayo and still could not believe the environment! Now I can't believe I'll be livin' the dream in only a few months time...

24. Were you asked to come back for a second look?

I was not asked to come back for a second look, but I was very much encouraged to do so :)

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question?

No programs asked me where I was ranking them. Instead I told them if I was ranking them highly or very highly in a Thank You letter. I never gave out a concrete rank *except* to my #1 choice (Mayo).

26. Were you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there?

Nope.

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked?

Of 14 programs I interviewed at, I ranked 13 of them.

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)?

I matched into my top choice, Mayo Clinic in Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ

Ob/Gyn

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 form) OB/GYN
 2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? NO
 3. How many programs did you apply to? 77 (Couples Matching)
 4. What were the best sources of info about programs? APGO, Frieda, Scutmonkey.com, their own websites
-

5. How many interviews did you do? 18 interviews (out of 33 interview offers)

6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Nov, Dec and a few in January
 7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? NO
 8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$5-6000 (Interviewed all over the country)
-
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? NO
-
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why Ob/Gyn, do you have experience working with underserved population, leadership questions. Mostly just questions about your life so be sure to have some interesting stories. Also be prepared to answer any grades/scores discrepancy (for ex: step 1 & 2 scores are very different), and have many questions to ask the interviewee about their programs (they love it). Some interviews sessions are all just Q&A sessions for you to ask them questions for ½ hour.
-
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? sometimes
 12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? August 2010, in new york city
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? October 2010, in Atlanta
 14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE q bank, Step up medicine, First Aid Step 2 CK. I felt that Crush and Secrets are good but too simplified for in depth studying.
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid step 2 CS
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Don't get discouraged if you scores/grades thus far have been average. The application really looks at you as a whole – which means you still have about ½ of the materials you haven't done yet (personal statement, letters of rec, step 2, interviews). These are all really really important. And remember – the scores/stats/letters will get you the interview – but it's the interview that will win them over (and therefore rank you high enough to match).
-
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Yes, 2. Family planning @ nyu and High Risk Obstetrics (MFM) @ cornell. Both sub-I
-
18. When did you do away electives? Aug and Sept
-

19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and also their own websites. Do call the coordinator to make sure there are still slots available before you submit online and butter them up to have them “pencil” you in a slot.

20. When did you apply for away electives? Early April

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Do your aways before oct if you potentially want letters. Many less desirable programs are now interviewing early on starting mid-october so be aware of that. Easy months in nov, dec and jan (like path cases, research month etc)

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes, although its program dependent. Some places offer courtesy interviews and some don't. You might be able to find that information on APGO.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? NO

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? NO – it's never mandatory.

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? Only maybe 1 or 2 – and they only really said “ Please send me a thank you letter if you are going to rank us in your top 3. If not don't bother.”

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? NO

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? I participated in the couples match so I ranked 17/18 programs I interviewed.

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? I participated in the couples match – we matched at our 4th/88 combination ranks we had.

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) OB-GYN
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? NO
3. How many programs did you apply to? 30(?)

4. What were the best sources of info about programs? APGO and FREIDA and the program websites
5. How many interviews did you do? 15, I recommend doing better initial screening of places you apply to than I did, there were several I got interviews at then realized they had aspects that made them places I didn't want to interview at.
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November and December (several places had cut out their jan interviews completely b/c people canceled too much in the past)
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. 3000 (?)
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? yes
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why here? And a few programs were doing the behavioral questions like 'tell me about a time when you faced a conflict and how you went about resolving it. Try to be specific'
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? Only one program asked why I thought I did better on step 2 than 1, I had already taken CS _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? In Toledo, the same time everyone else was
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Spring break 3rd year in CA
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE world Questions _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aid for step 2 cs in the library, the mini cases are all you really need _____
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Get your letters now, I definitely had a long long long hold up from one of my writers despite me seriously stalking and calling every week. _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Yes 3, Phoenix, phoenix, california__
18. When did you do away electives? August, September, October
19. Where did you find info on away electives? On line
20. When did you apply for away electives? May or June I think
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Do ones at your top choices. Then you can show them you're a good worker and also decide if it's actually someplace you want to be. I realized that none of mine wasn't somewhere I would want to be for the next 4 years.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? No
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? Not specifically, One asked me everywhere else I was interviewing
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 15
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) OB/GYN
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No
3. How many programs did you apply to? 50
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? APGO website, FREIDA, former graduates, “The Successful Match”, Desai et al.
5. How many interviews did you do? 15
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? None
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$5000
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why here? Why Ob/Gyn?
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? Late July of 4th year at UT
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Late May of 3rd year in Chicago

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE World, First Aid for Step 2 CK
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for Step 2 CS
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?
- Apply to as many programs as you can afford to apply to that interest you. It gives you a broader selection to choose from. With >30 invitations, I knew the 15 I accepted were places I was very interested in going.
 - Start your personal statement early. Generate lots of ideas, and develop them one by one in paragraph long segments until you strike gold with an idea. Once you have written your first draft, set it down for a few days, then review it, add to/change it. Have Della's sister read it, revise. Then have someone whose writing ability you respect read it, & revise again. Finally, have someone in the field who does interviews read it.
 - Interviews: Print & read all communication with the program. Read the website info two nights before your interview and take notes. Generate a list of questions you have on an index card. Stay somewhat close to where you are interviewing. Get there 30-60 min early and wander around—observe. Are people friendly? Do they offer to help you find where you are going? Is the cafeteria open? The medical library? Are the halls clean and the bathrooms stocked? These are small things, but they can give you a general indication of the atmosphere when the tour group isn't coming through. Try not to arrive in the designated spot >15 minutes early, because the coordinator is trying to get things set up, and you don't want to be in the way. Be yourself in the interview & have fun—people want to know the real you. Observe the interactions among the faculty & residents. Do they seem like “your people?” You have prepared for the interview using the list of questions from “The Successful Match,” so you won't have any problem in the interview. After the interview email a thank you to each person you interviewed with or connected with, as well as the coordinator. Follow that up with paper thank you notes to make an even bigger impression. Maintain contact with one or two residents via email (NOT facebook) at programs you really like. They can be your ambassador at selection meetings, and may tip you off as to strategic people to contact and when to do so.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Yes. 3. Riverside (MFM/Gyn), Jacksonville FL (General Ob/Gyn), Orlando Regional Medical Center (Infectious Disease).
18. When did you do away electives? August, Oct-Nov, and Nov-Dec.
19. Where did you find info on away electives? Program website
20. When did you apply for away electives? Later than I should have—April.
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Do things that complement your chosen field (for Ob/gyn, eg Radiology, Ultrasound, ID, NICU, Surgery, Urology), and/or do things you have a particular curiosity in exploring.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes, I got letters of recommendation that I was able to add to ERAS, and I got interviews that I might not otherwise have gotten.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? I went on two second looks to help me clarify questions I had about the program and how well I would fit there.

24. Were you asked to come back for a second look? No.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No. I was asked in every interview where else I was applying, but never about where I would rank a program.
26. Were you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No.
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 15 – this was based on NRMP match data that shows 99% of Ob/Gyn applicants who rank 15 programs match somewhere.
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? At the time of completing this survey I do not know.

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Obstetrics and Gynecology _____
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? N/A _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 45 _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? APGO directory, program directors (anecdotal), current residents, program websites _____

5. How many interviews did you do? 15 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November - January _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Only community programs _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$4000 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? What are your strengths and weaknesses, Why this program, What do you like to do for fun, Where do you see yourself in 10 years _____

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? N/A _____

12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? July before 4th year _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? November 4th year in Chicago _____

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE world questions, Secrets book _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Apply early, apply broadly, and keep an open mind about programs. Iserson's Guide to Residency was a helpful resource. You will also see a lot of the same people on the interview trail, so other applicants are also a great source of information about programs.

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? One month at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, OH and one month at the University of Wisconsin, Madison _____

18. When did you do away electives? Aug and Oct _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? Program websites _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? May _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? People say infectious disease and cardiology are good electives to do _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I am not sure. It seems like a double edge sword, but I also feel that getting to know the residents gives you a really good sense of the program. _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No. I was too tired by the end of the trail. _____

-
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? I was invited at a few programs but told it wasn't mandatory to match _____
-
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? No _____
-
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12 _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Ob/Gyn _____
-
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No, only 1 and transitional years
3. How many programs did you apply to? 5 ob/gyn and 2-3 transitional
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Army mods website links to the residency locations and talking to people
5. How many interviews did you do? 3
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Aug/Sep _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Yes, because interviews were conducted during the away rotation at the location _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Only had to pay for travel to the 1 place I did not do an elective at it was less than \$200 _____
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No, military pays for everything since you are on ADT at the time _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Do you plan to stay in the military after your commitment is up? Why would you be a good fit for this program?
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? Yes, was asked about step 1 and 2 scores
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? July 16
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? June 6 Chicago
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE world and did internal medicine as last 3rd year rotation
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aid CS only and it was more than enough, plus the practice OSCE/CS prep the school provided
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Try to find a copy of your AMCAS application (long time ago huh?) and resume, it's just like doing AMCAS but with a few more questions and you can use activities you did in college and I think even high school if relevant to medicine/research. Try to get everything done as early as possible and let different people with diverse educational backgrounds read the bio and PS to get the best picture of how you are presenting yourself.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Did only Army away electives at Brooke army Med Ctr in San Antonio and Madigan Army Med Ctr in Tacoma. Depends on the year but our year the Army students could only apply to Army residencies so it didn't make much sense to do an elective at other places unless it was just for fun.
18. When did you do away electives? Aug and Sept
19. Where did you find info on away electives? Army mods website
20. When did you apply for away electives? Started end of January/February because spots in the department you want can go quick at the big name places and it takes the military some time to approve things sometimes. In addition to applying for aways you have to apply for ADT at the same time so try to make the dates match up
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Rotate where you think you want to go because the rotation is an audition interview, and more important for them to see and work with you verses just see you on paper.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes,
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No
-
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? No, no need
-

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? In a roundabout way yes, pretty much if you like them let them know and you will probably match there unless you had a horrible rotation.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? Not flat out, but I was told it would help my chances if I did let them know where I wanted to be
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 5 + transitional years
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? Brooke Army Med Ctr San Antonio top choice

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

This is for Army students. You will have to ask a lot of questions to get the answers you want but it is an easier process than the civilian match. Definitely use the recruiters and call the residency locations for specifics, but it is pretty easy to get what you want if you are persistent and have passed USMLE no matter what your score. Plus, physical requirements are important so work on that before you go if you have issues in that area because they are cracking down on people who fail the weight and PT test.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) *OB-GYN*
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? *No, just one.*
3. How many programs did you apply to? *24*
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? *The website apgo.org has a great section about each residency program and info about all of them. You can look them up by location and it tells you all kinds of good info and numbers*
5. How many interviews did you do? *14*
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? *I had a few in October, November, and December, and then the rest in January*
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? *About 75% did pay for hotel. I didn't fly to any interviews, just drove.*
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. *Not as much for me. Just driving/gas to all the interviews, plus a few hotels... maybe \$400 or so altogether.*
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? *No.*

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? *“Tell me about yourself,” Strengths & weaknesses, ethical questions such as, “What would you do if you thought your senior resident had been drinking”*
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? *Yes – but only once or twice*
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? *July in Toledo*
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? *July in Chicago*
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? *USMLE World questions*
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? *First Aid for Step 2 CS*
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year’s fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? *I wish I was more prepared with questions to ask. It is helpful to study message boards or websites to see what kinds of questions are typically asked, and have some answers prepared. Also, always have questions when they ask you “Do you have any more questions?” because you will get asked that about 100 times during each interview day. Wear extremely comfortable shoes – some of the tours can go for an hour or more! Always, if you can, go to the dinners the night before to meet the residents and also to scope out the other applicants.*
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? *Yes, I did three away rotations – St. Joe’s in Ypsilanti, Riverside in Columbus, and Ohio State*
18. When did you do away electives? *August (St. Joe), September (Riverside), and November (Ohio State)*
19. Where did you find info on away electives? *The hospitals’ websites and ERAS*
20. When did you apply for away electives? *I started early – March/April – whenever it opened. However, I only heard back from OSU right away. The others I had to scramble for*
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? *Choose hospitals where you are interested in doing residency. All the residents on my away electives said the best thing for students to do is an away rotation with them, because the residents and faculty will know you much better when it comes time to make rank lists, and you will see firsthand if you like the hospital/program. Contact the clerkship or visiting student right away at the hospitals you want to go to instead of doing it all through ERAS.*
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? *Absolutely. You will meet some or all of the residents and show them how awesome you are! Also, you can have an opportunity to have a quick meeting with the program director.*
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? *No.*
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? *Some of the hospitals offered second looks but I figured they sent it to all the applicants.*
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? *No, none of the programs asked where I was ranking them.*

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? *No.*

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? *13*

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? *I matched at my 2nd choice ☺*

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Orthopaedic Surgery

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Orthopaedics _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 28
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? The residents on away rotations were the best way to find out about the program _____

5. How many interviews did you do? 7
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Dec/Jan _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. 2500 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? What do you think you can bring to our program? Asked a lot about research, things I am looking for in a program. Toughest question.... How are you going to pick which program is at the top of your rank list. _____

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? Yes, most mentioned my score on interviews. _____

12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? July in Toledo _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? June in Atlanta _____

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE step 2 secrets, Step up to medicine, USMLE world _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? Websites/blogs about experiences. Writing out a template and rehearsing the order of things I should think about. _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Do your research up front. Apply to programs you are really interested and invest time in having those programs get to know you personally. Applying to 80 programs may get you more interviews, but if all you have is an interview that lasts 10 minutes this is not going to set you apart from the program. I applied to a lot less but stayed in contact with my top few choices regularly through the process. _____

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? August-Research in Ortho at Vanderbilt, Sept University of Cincinnati, October- Ohio State. The rotation in October was too late to get letters for application, but one of the attendings wrote a letter and stuck into my file for the home institution. _____

18. When did you do away electives? Fall _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? Asked around, called programs, set up special research rotation with someone I really respected and did a lot of research in the area I am interested in. _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? Very early, the day the programs opened up their application _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Do your homework ahead of time and get an away at the place you think you might want to rank 1 or 2. My rank list changed after the aways. If you get shut out of an away be creative and see if you can do a research month instead. Invest a lot of time in getting to know those people well. _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Absolutely. I worked with the residents and attendings closely and it made the interview process easier. _____
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No _____
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Yes at almost all programs I did not rotate at. _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? Some asked if I would rank them high, but did not ask for a specific number.

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No. _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1 _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Orthopaedic Surgery
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No
3. How many programs did you apply to? 53
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? FRIEDA online and orthogate.org as well as word of mouth from current residents
5. How many interviews did you do? 17
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? They were equally spread between December and January

7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Only one paid for a hotel, the rest I was on my own for everything
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$6000-8000
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? Probably an extra \$2000
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why orthopaedics? Why our program? What is your biggest weakness? Where else are you looking? Where did you do your aways and why?
11. Were you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? I took both parts of Step 2 in July and about half of programs had commented that they were surprised but pleased that I had already taken it and half made no comment. Don't think it really matters.
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? End of July at UT
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? End of July in Chicago
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? Step Up to Step 2, Step Up to Medicine for a handful of chapters, USMLE World
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for Step 2 CS one time 3 days before the test
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? I don't have any ironclad rules to follow, but the following are suggestions based upon what I thought worked for me in helping me match.
 Residency application: Not sure if it matters, but I had my application in and complete on September 1st minus the LORs.
 Personal statement: About 2/3 of programs that I interviewed had read my personal statement and had commented on it in one way or another. Top programs seemed to have looked at it very carefully and almost knew it by heart so don't waste an opportunity there to try to set yourself apart by talking about some unique characteristics about yourself.
 Interviews: Try to relax and just be yourself. Try to go to the social events if possible because this gives you the best opportunity to ask questions in a non-pressured environment. It also gives the residents an opportunity to meet you and remember you when they all go to vote on you later on. Go on as many interviews as possible and rank all programs unless you absolutely hate it there because orthopaedics is only going to get more and more competitive. Know as much about the programs as possible before you interview and be ready to answer all the questions I stated above.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? I did 2, one at the University of Colorado and one at Stanford University. I also did an MSK Radiology month at the University of Florida since I was interested in their program, but had already used up my 3 ortho months before that.
18. When did you do away electives? September, October, and MSK Rads in November
19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and Extramural Electives Compendium
20. When did you apply for away electives? I applied to 8 and was accepted at all 8. They were not nearly as competitive as I originally thought. I was accepted to University of Colorado, Stanford University,

University of Southern California, University of Florida, University of South Florida, UC-Irvine, University of North Carolina, Orlando Health

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? As outlined above, just be very selective where you do your aways because you always have a significantly better chance of matching at a place you rotate so don't waste an opportunity on a "big name" unless you also want to go there. It's better to knock out a rotation at a smaller place because you not only improve your chances there, but you'll also be more likely to get great LOR's. The quality and content of the LOR is more important than who writes it.
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Absolutely. You always have a much better chance of matching at places that you rotate as long as you do a good job. Therefore, you should be very selective in where you do your aways.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No
24. Were you asked to come back for a second look? About half the candidates on the interview trail that I met were planning on doing second looks. I didn't do any. I really have no idea if doing one helps or hurts you. I decided not to because I'm of the opinion that thank you's, phone calls and second looks have no bearing on the match process one way or another. I doubt any of the above hurt, but I just couldn't justify the extra expense to do a second look because I already knew where I wanted to rank places and didn't feel like it would help me.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? Only one program asked me where I was ranking them out of 17.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 16
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd. I only wanted to be in Colorado, California or Florida and especially Florida so I had ranked only University of South Florida and Orlando Health above UF.

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Pediatrics

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Pediatrics _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 23 _____

4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Freida, faculty, former students, program websites

5. How many interviews did you do? 11 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Paid for lodging, not for travel _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. 500-750\$ _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No _____
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why do you want to come here _____

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? September in Toledo _____
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? August in Chicago _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? First Aid and USMLE world _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Apply to more programs than you think you need, you can always cancel interviews. The process is getting more competitive and I'd rather have a job where I don't really want than not have a job. _____

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? None _____
18. When did you do away electives? N/A _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? _____
20. When did you apply for away electives? _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Take your AI early to show you can do intern level work, save easy electives for March, April and May since you won't want to do anything after you match. _____
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? _____
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No, they are more for you than for the program and I knew where I wanted to go without looking at a place again. _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? No _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? None, but I was asked where else I was applying _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 11 _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Pediatrics _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? _____
no _____
3. How many programs did you apply to? 30 _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Frieda and the program websites _____

-
-
5. How many interviews did you do? 13 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Dec and Jan _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No, maybe half paid for lodging _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. About \$2400 _____
-
-
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? no _____
-
-
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why pediatrics, but most didn't even ask questions _____
-
-
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? no _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? October in toledo _____
-
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? May of 3rd year, in chicago _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? First aid, USMLE world _____
-
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? Just the first aid book _____
-
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? get everything done early, don't procrastinate, be as organized during the process as possible. Make a list of questions to ask every program and take notes on the answers, you will forget the details about each program and they will start to run together if you're not careful. _____
-
-
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 2 electives, one at Boston children's and one at CHOP _____
-
-
18. When did you do away electives? Aug and sept _____
-
-
19. Where did you find info on away electives? On their websites _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? April? Don't really remember _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Try to pick a variety of different types of programs (sizes, etc.) unless you have 3 places that you already know that you want to go. _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I don't know.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? no _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? At some places we were asked _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? no _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? no _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 13 _____

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Pediatrics

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? Nope just one _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 28

4. What were the best sources of info about programs? FRIEDA, program websites, other students

5. How many interviews did you do? 12

6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November, December with a few in October and January
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? yes
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$2300 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No I was fortunate enough to have help from my parents _____
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? "Tell me about X" X= item on my CV, "When did you know that you wanted to become a Pediatrician?" "Why Pediatrics?" "What made you decide to interview at this program?" _____
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? no
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? End of July in Toledo

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? mid October in Houston
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? First Aid for Step 2 CK, USMLE World, Path Case studies _____
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid for Step 2 CS, advice from other students
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Write personal statement/ ERAS CV by August. Send in application as early as possible. Call quickly when you get interview offers, be polite as humanly possible to everyone that you talk to or email. Book travel early (it's pricey around the holidays to begin with). Apply to many schools, accept many interviews, and then cancel interviews as more come in. _____
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? Yes, I did three. First at St. Jude in Peds Hem-Onc in August, then NICU Acting internship at MetroHealth in Cleveland in September, then Peds Infectious Diseases at Cleveland Clinic in October.
18. When did you do away electives? August through October _____
19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and program websites _____
20. When did you apply for away electives? The day that the applications became available. They fill up quickly.
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Do away electives early to get familiar with other hospitals and request letters of recommendation in support of your residency application. Try to do at least 3 away electives. My aways were my most quality learning experiences. For the required Toledo months, do rotations in things that you need extra work on. I thought that ER was a very good fourth year rotation.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Yes, definitely.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? No _____
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? None asked specifics but one asked us to let them know if we were close to the top of the list because they wanted to highly rank students who wanted to come to their program.
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 2nd

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms)
Pediatrics

Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No

How many programs did you apply to? 25

What were the best sources of info about programs? FREIDA & individual program websites

How many interviews did you do? 13

What month did most of your interviews take place? December with a few in October and November

Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Most of the Midwest and SE schools paid for lodging and pre-interview dinner. Most larger cities did not.

Estimate how much the interview process cost.\$700-\$1000

Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? I did allow myself extra \$ in my budget for this year knowing that I would have the interview process. When it came down to it, though I probably did not end up using the extra \$2000 I allotted for interviews. Instead the extra money went toward my global health elective.

What was your most frequently asked interview question?

-Do you have any questions about the program?

-Why pediatrics?

-What do you see yourself doing in ten years?

-Greatest strength/weakness?

Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? No

When and where did you take Step 2CK? Late August at University of Toledo testing site

When and where did you take Step 2CS?Mid-August at Houston testing site

What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK?USMLEworld and First Aid for CK only

What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS?First Aid for CS only (studied a week before examination)

Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?Early bird gets the worm. Try to look at programs before you apply to them. I went regions I was willing to live in. In July, I looked at a few programs a night using FREIDA and decided where to apply from there. It saves you money in the long run to put more thought into the 20-30 programs you apply to rather than just arbitrarily pick some and try to learn about them later once they offer an interview etc. Plus, you can always say, I'll look at it later when I have more time, but it's doubtful that you will have more time later. Be creative on your personal statement; you will get noticed and it will be easy to talk about. I also went on a global health experience in October so it was an easy topic to talk about during the interview process and it gave me a little more control over the interview.

Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? When did you do away electives?Yes. I did three away electives plus a global health elective.

- Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center- Pulmonology September 2010
- First People's Hospital, Shanghai, China- October 2010
- Nationwide Children's Hospital/The Ohio State University- Gastroenterology November 2010
- Aultman Hospital, Canton, Ohio- Emergency Medicine February 2011

Where did you find info on away electives?Found information by using VSAS as well as individual hospital websites.

When did you apply for away electives? March, April, May deadlines

Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? I did my AI early and highly recommend it. It increases your learning curve quickly and sets you at the right pace to start off your 4th year. I would also recommend trying to do electives in areas of interest or areas that you think you may be weak and would like extra help before you are out on your own. I had A LOT of trouble scheduling for the spring, so I would consider trying to get AHECs completed early as well as any other requirements. Be prepared to spend time on aways or outside of the city of Toledo (Riverside, St. Joe's, Henry Ford) if you don't want to sacrifice learning about stuff you are interested in.

Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Typically doing away electives can help you get a toe in the door to a program. I say that doing aways at the 2 locations in my given field helped me learn about the program, its educational aspects, and whether I would consider spending the next three years (in both cases, an overwhelming positive experience). However, I have also had friends that did aways and did not even interview at the location because they ended up hating it.

Did you do a second look after the first interview? I did not complete any second looks.

Where you asked to come back for a second look? General invitations were sent to me and other applicants from probably 3 out of the 13 programs at which I interviewed.

Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? If I remember correctly, only one program asked where I would consider ranking them. However, many of the programs went about asking in a round-a-bout way by inquiring to what other programs I would be interviewing.

Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? No

If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? I ranked 10 out of 13. I left three off of the list because I simply did not care for them.

Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st ☺

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

Erin Schaffner

Erin.schaffner5@gmail.com

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) **Pediatrics**

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? **No**

3. How many programs did you apply to? **20**

4. What were the best sources of info about programs? **Freida and the Program's Websites**

5. How many interviews did you do? **12 (I received 18 offers)**

6. What month did most of your interviews take place? **November**

7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? **Hotel was included in all but 1 interview**
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. **\$2000**

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? **Not yet**

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? **Why Pediatrics and why here?**

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? **Nope**
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? **UT at the beginning of August**

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? **Chicago at the end of May 3rd year**
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? **USMLE World Questions**

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? **First-Aid for CS (only read through the vignettes)** _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? **Start working now to get your CV up to date and in good order. The personal statement workshop that Della gives is really good and shouldn't be missed. Figure out if you want to do an away rotation and get that figured out as early as possible to save some stress. Start deciding who you want to write letters of recommendation and start making contact with some of them. (again to save yourself some stress later)**
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? **I did one away in Denver at the University of Colorado Children's Hospital doing Peds ER.** _____

18. When did you do away electives? **September**

19. Where did you find info on away electives? **VSAS**

20. When did you apply for away electives? **April (as soon as it was available)**

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? **For peds, it's totally up to you in terms of where, how many, and what you want to get out of it. I chose to apply to what was then my number 1 choice, one to experience what a big program was like, and two to see if I wanted to keep it as number 1, and three to have a solid understanding of another program to compare my interviews with.**
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? **Maybe. I got a good letter out of it, and had a great experience. More than anything it gave me a better idea of what I wanted, and changed what I thought was my number 1 choice.** _____
-
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? **Not in the traditional sense. I visited my top 2 choices with my family to get my wife's perspective in choosing which should be number 1.**
-
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? **Not in peds. They're not that formal.**
-
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? **Only UT did that. Nobody else said anything.**
-
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? **No**
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? **12**
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? **Number 1**

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

- Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) . Pediatrics
- Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? no _____

- How many programs did you apply to? 14 _____
- What were the best sources of info about programs? FREIDA _____

- How many interviews did you do? 10 _____

6. What month did most of your interviews take place? November _____

7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? Yes lodging, no travel _____

8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$750 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews?...NO _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question?...What do you want to know about our program?

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? NO _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? UT July 25th ish _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Chicago July 6th ish _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLE WORLD question bank & First
Aide for CK _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aide for CS _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal
statements, interviews, etc? Get started as early as you can. Being on top of or ahead of the process helps
to keep stress down. _____

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 2: University of Michigan & Detroit
Children's _____

18. When did you do away electives? October & November _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS and the respective school's website. _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? April/May..as soon as it became available. I don't remember exactly. _____
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Pick things you think you may be interested in fellowships for, that way you can rule in/ out before residency when you are forced to make the fellowship decision quickly. Also may help provide interview discussion of your goals.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? NO

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? NO.

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? NO

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? NO

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? NO
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 10
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 2nd

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Pediatrics _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? _____
no _____

3. How many programs did you apply to? 30 _____

4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Frieda and the program websites _____

5. How many interviews did you do? 13 _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? Dec and Jan _____
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No, maybe half paid for lodging _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. About \$2400 _____

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? no _____

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why pediatrics, but most didn't even ask questions _____

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? no _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? October in toledo _____

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? May of 3rd year, in chicago _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? First aid, USMLE world _____

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? Just the first aid book _____

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? get everything done early, don't procrastinate, be as organized during the process as possible. Make a list of questions to ask every program and take notes on the answers, you will forget the details about each program and they will start to run together if you're not careful. _____

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? 2 electives, one at Boston children's and one at CHOP _____

18. When did you do away electives? Aug and sept _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? On their websites _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? April? Don't really remember _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Try to pick a variety of different types of programs (sizes, etc.) unless you have 3 places that you already know that you want to go. _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I don't know.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? no _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? At some places we were asked _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? no _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? no _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 13 _____

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 3rd _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Physical Medicine/Rehabilitation

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation** _____

2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? (**Also preliminary medicine and transitional years, because most PM&R programs start at PGY2**) _____

-
3. How many programs did you apply to? **30 PM&R, 10 Prelims/TY** _____
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? **Program websites, freida** _____
-
5. How many interviews did you do? **10 PM&R, 5 prelims/TY** _____
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? **December mostly, a few in Nov and a few in Jan**
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? **No** _____
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. **\$4000** _____
-
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? **No, they give you a few thousand dollars extra loan money during 4th year. You should have enough for most interviews but it depends on how much you spend on away rotations, specialty choice, and choice of locations of interviews (flying vs. driving, hotel vs. family/friends).** _____
-
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? **“What exposure have you had to PM&R?” Seemed like they wanted to make sure you knew what you were getting into.** _____
-
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? **Yes** _____
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? **Toledo in September** _____
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? **Chicago in August (I needed to do a PM&R elective in July since we had no options for electives during MS3)** _____
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? **All you need is USMLE World and Step 2 Secrets once through each** _____
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? **First Aid for CS once through** _____
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year’s fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? **Apply to a lot of programs through eras, because you can always decline interviews if you get too many, but try to go on as many as you can tolerate/afford. Invest in a GPS if you don’t already have one! It is essential for the interview trail. Make your rank list in order of your true preference. Don’t be swayed by sweet-talking program directors who imply that you are**

guaranteed a spot, and don't rank by where you think you will match. There are no guarantees in the match so cover your butt! You do NOT want to scramble, so rank all programs at where you could remotely see yourself. _____

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? **One away elective in California. It was very expensive for housing and a car. I got a Letter of Rec from it, but I'm not sure if it was worth the money (probably \$2000 for the month).** _____

18. When did you do away electives? **Mid-September to mid- October** _____

19. Where did you find info on away electives? **VSAS, respective websites, calling programs on the telephone** _____

20. When did you apply for away electives? **End of May/ beginning of June** _____

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? **To save money, I should've done an elective that was closer, maybe at University of Michigan, Wayne State, or somewhere within driving distance. One away elective is enough for most specialties.** _____

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? **Not sure. It did give me a little more exposure to PM&R, it got me another letter, and gave me some interview fodder, but in the end, it probably made little if any difference.** _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? **No** _____

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? **A couple of programs mentioned it as an option but it seemed to have no bearing on your chances of matching there** _____

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? **No** _____

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? **No** _____

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? **10 (all I interviewed at)** ____

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? **Not my first choice but definitely not my last either! Somewhere in the middle** ____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? NO
3. How many programs did you apply to? 25
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Individual websites. FRIEDA website was very useful in the beginning of the process. Once I had programs narrowed down (mainly by location) I went to each residency program's websites for specific information.
5. How many interviews did you do? 12 (offered 15)
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December. This surprised me, as I was expecting most of my interviews to be in January but I had two in January, one in November, and one in October.
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No. One program helped pay for a hotel. I would highly recommend using a website, such as priceline.com and find a hotel a few days before you go for the interview. This was something I realized in the middle of the interview process and I wish I would have used it from the beginning.
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. \$1500
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No, but I will be taking out a loan from a private bank for residency transition.
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why PM&R? Why our program? What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? All of the interview were very laid back and more getting to know you.
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? In January, I was asked if I had taken Step 2 CS yet. My step 2 CK score was already back. They didn't seem too concerned with the Step 2 CS score – or not even have taken it yet by January.
12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? UT-HSC
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Chicago

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? World Q Bank
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First aid for Step 2 CS
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? Get the application in early, use priceline.com or a similar website to find hotels that are putting big discounts on rooms to get them filled last minute, google.com/transit was a life saver for navigating the public transportation systems in big cities. Know of at least one or two unique things about the programs you're going to be interviewing at so you can either list them as reasons as to why you're interested in their program or ask about those unique things when they ask you if you have questions as it shows you are interested in the program.
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? No, but I would recommend doing at least one.
18. When did you do away electives?
19. Where did you find info on away electives?
20. When did you apply for away electives?
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? I feel doing an away elective would be an asset when trying to match at a particular program.
23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? NO
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? I can only remember two programs mentioning anything about coming back to see the program again.
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? One program suggested that we let them know if we were really interested them and also insinuated we tell them if we weren't seriously considering them. I was not seriously considering them and did not tell them this, as we don't have the benefit of programs telling us this info so why should I tell them?
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? NO
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 12
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? 1st
29. Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Psychiatry

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms) Psychiatry
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they? No
3. How many programs did you apply to? 30, which was the standard advice Della gave to all the 4th years. It was WAY too many for Psychiatry (even given my horrible Step 1 score), and I learned very fast not to tell program directors, because they thought it meant I had no specific interest in their program. Most applicants I met on the interview trail applied to around 10-15 tops.
4. What were the best sources of info about programs? Frieda and the specific program's website
5. How many interviews did you do? Was invited to do 20, had 17 scheduled and canceled 4 due to fatigue and expense, so 13 overall
6. What month did most of your interviews take place? December
7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel? No, only 1 paid for one night in a hotel
8. Estimate how much the interview process cost. Geez...a lot? At least \$3000 I'd say.
9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews? No, for some reason my very hit or miss financial aid package was a bit more generous this year.
10. What was your most frequently asked interview question? Why Psychiatry? Usually with what do you want to do in the field as a follow-up.
11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2? Only one interviewer asked me what I thought about my board scores. All programs had my Step 2 scores as soon as I submitted ERAS.

12. When and where did you take Step 2CK? UT test center, in late July
-
-
13. When and where did you take Step 2CS? Chicago, mid- July
-
14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK? USMLEWorld. Questions, questions, questions. I did get First Aid, but QBank is where it's at.
-
-
15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS? First Aid, it's all you need, skim it once and you'll be fine. Don't sweat this one.
-
-
16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc? I got a lot of comments on my personal statement- I think in Psychiatry they are much more interested in getting to know you as a person and your PS counts for more than it would in other specialties. Apply as soon as the app opens- the early bird gets the interview invite. Apply to your dream school, because Psych is an applicant's market- I was surprised at how many schools I thought were longshots gave me an invite. I do think doing an away at a program you love also gives you an edge. Take good notes about each place you visit- they really blur together if you don't. Write your thank you notes right away because they build up and then you never want to write them.
-
-
17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where? I did one, at OHSU in Portland, OR
-
-
18. When did you do away electives? August
-
-
19. Where did you find info on away electives? VSAS
-
-
20. When did you apply for away electives? May
-
-
21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives? Hopefully this will change next year, but I had to BEG Dr. Smith to get me Psych electives in town. She did come through for me, but it was a fight. Start early and be persistent, or plan on doing aways if you want to do 3 months. Enjoy 4th year and take some easy rotations without guilt- you've worked hard and you deserve it! Recuperate before intern year hits. I would try to take at least 1 month of medicine toward the end though just to refresh that knowledge.
-
22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program? Absolutely. I had no connection to the program or place, and I don't know that I would have gotten an interview there

without the away. I came out with 2 letters of rec and a bunch of things to talk about on why I loved the program and the city. _____

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview? No, no second looks. I might have done one at what ended up being my number 2 rank, but I interviewed there late and didn't have time to schedule it before my next rotation. It might have helped, because when I wrote my final, hey I'll be ranking you in the top letter, the PD was radio-silent. =(_____
24. Where you asked to come back for a second look? Not specifically, but most places were like, if you really want to, sure, come on back. They're not really encouraged though. _____
25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question? I got a couple of calls from program directors toward the end of the interview trail that said "I hope you will consider ranking us highly" but never was asked a question. Although, in questionable match violation territory, I was FREQUENTLY asked how many programs I applied to and where while I was on the interview trail. _____
26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there? Absolutely not. _____
27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked? 11 out of my 13 interviews. One place people seemed miserable, another program had an affiliate site that had some questionable ethical things happening and I was not happy that the program wasn't severing ties. _____
28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)? Match Day isn't until next week, but the program director of my number one gave me a phone call so I'm pretty confident that's where I'll be going. _____

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.

Radiology - Diagnostic

Survey to help Underclassmen With the Residency Application Process

1. Specialty choice this questionnaire pertains to? (If you applied to more than 1 specialty please fill out 2 forms)
Diagnostic Radiology
2. Did you apply to more than 1 specialty if so how many and what were they?
No. I only applied to Radiology.
3. How many programs did you apply to?

Approximately 50.

4. What were the best sources of info about programs?

-Frieda was an outstanding resource. It provides contact information, website links, and even information about how many applicants the program interviews. This should be your go-to resource for program information.

-Program websites were occasionally helpful. Keep in mind that some programs don't regularly update their website, so the information listed may not be up to date.

-Program Coordinators (*not* program directors) were an excellent source of information. The Program Coordinator is usually an administrative assistant who can tell you just as much about the program as the Program Director. They are especially helpful for information such as when interview invitations are sent out, how many interviews are yet to be offered, and general info about the interview day.

-Colleagues/Fellow Applicants can sometimes help you get information on a program. Remember, though, that they are providing second-hand information and may provide inaccurate information (even if they don't realize that they are). Although this is probably the most accessible and convenient way to learn about a program, please remember that each applicant will have his/her own opinion about a program. These opinions are largely formed by individual experiences, expectations, etc. and probably won't be the same as your own.

-Websites (Auntminnie.com, Studentdoctor.com, etc.)-These resources are even more subjective and oftentimes more inaccurate than just talking to your classmates and fellow applicants. Some of the comments on these websites are slanderous and have a malicious intent, and some comments are truly meant to be helpful. The problem, of course, is that you really can't tell which is which. If you have to use these as a resource, please do so with caution.

5. How many interviews did you do?

18 Radiology, 8 TY, 2 Prelim Medicine.

6. What month did most of your interviews take place?

December and January (equally distributed, about 40% of interviews during each month)

7. Did most of the programs pay for your lodging and travel?

Only a few Radiology Programs paid for lodging. None paid for travel.

8. Estimate how much the interview process cost.

\$5,000

9. Did you have to take out extra loan money for interviews?

No

10. What was your most frequently asked interview question?

For every program that you interview at, be able to answer the following questions:

-Tell me about yourself

-Why Radiology?

-Why this program?

11. Where you asked about your Step 2 scores or when you were planning to take Step 2?

No

12. When and where did you take Step 2CK?

September 22 in Helena, MT.

13. When and where did you take Step 2CS?

October 26 in Huston.

14. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CK?

- USMLE World
- StepUp to Medicine

15. What resources did you find helpful in studying for Step 2CS?

First Aid for Step 2 CS. I studied for approximately 2 days.

16. Do you have any advice or tips for next year's fourth year class regarding residency application, personal statements, interviews, etc?

-Residency Application: Do everything you can to submit your application on September 1. There are some programs that will only look at the first x number of applications that are submitted. If your application isn't within that initial number, it won't be considered. Also, make sure to put any significant research experience on your application. I had several publications from undergrad that I listed, which were commented on or asked about in numerous interviews.

-If you have a compelling reason to be at a particular program (family considerations, significant others, or even just a strong desire to be there), it is worth your time to email the program *coordinator* with your interest. This is especially important for programs that aren't in our geographic region or might otherwise be a "stretch" for you.

-If you

are unsure about how many programs to apply to, it is always a good idea to over-apply. Interview offers can be random and illogical, and you want to make sure that you have enough interviews to give yourself a good chance of matching. I did this and was offered many more interviews than I could attend, but remember that it is always much easier to cancel an interview than it is to apply late in the season and try to convince a program that you are actually interested in them.

17. Did you do away electives and if so how many and where?

Yes:

- Medical University of South Carolina (IR)-July
- University of Colorado, Denver (Diagnostic Radiology)-August
- University of Washington, Seattle (Diagnostic Radiology)-October

18. When did you do away electives?

See above

19. Where did you find info on away electives?

VSAS

20. When did you apply for away electives?

I tried to have my applications in when the schools began processing them. This meant having things ready to go in late February/March. Check VSAS for school-specific deadlines. Probably the most difficult thing about this process was getting your health requirements in order. Look at each school's immunization/physical requirements (usually available on VSAS), and begin working on this in December or over Christmas Break (really!).

21. Do you have any tips or advice on selecting fourth year electives?

You should try to do away rotations as early as possible in the academic year. In order for these rotations to give you an advantage, you need to complete them before interview season gets underway. I would recommend shooting for July/August.

Away rotations are not “required” for Radiology applicants. The majority of Radiology applicants that I met during the interview season had either done 1 or none at all. Away rotations are probably a good idea for UTCOM students, because we don’t have the most academically active or well-known department. However, I matched at a program where I did not do an away.

Away rotations are the most useful if done at a program that you might not have received an interview offer at otherwise. These include programs that are either out of our geographic region, are a “stretch” school for you, or both. That being said, some programs (UCSF being the most notorious) clearly state that they do not offer courtesy interviews for those who rotate there, so choose your program wisely.

22. Did doing the away elective help enhance your chance or matching at a particular program?

-Yes. I received interviews at all 3 of the programs I did aways at. Two of the programs were very selective, and I might not have gotten an interview there if I had not rotated. I was able to carry out a small research project at 1 program where I did an away, and make multiple contacts at all of the programs I did aways at.

23. Did you do a second look after the first interview?

No.

24. Where you asked to come back for a second look?

I was asked by 1 program. Due to time constraints, I was not able to attend.

25. Did programs request information on where you were ranking them and if yes about how many of the programs asked this question?

No programs asked this directly. One program did call me in the week before rank lists were due and ask “how I felt about their residency,” but they didn’t ask (nor did I tell them) exactly where I was ranking them.

26. Where you ever told that if you did not tell a program where you were ranking them that you would not match there?

No

27. If you are comfortable can you tell us how many programs you ranked?

18 Radiology Programs

28. Again if you are comfortable can you tell us the number of the rank where you matched (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th choice etc)?

#1 Duke Radiology! Go Blue Devils!

Any questions we missed? Please feel free to add any and all of your own thoughts and thank you so very much.