

ANESTHESIOLOGY

Residency Application Information

Contacts

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About the specialty

- Anesthesiologists specialize in the perioperative care of patients undergoing surgery and ensure their safety during this time. This process begins with a comprehensive preoperative assessment that takes into consideration the patient's state of health in the context of the planned surgical procedure and the optimization of comorbid conditions. In addition to bringing the patient through the operation safely, the anesthesiologist is also responsible for the patient's immediate postoperative care as the effects of anesthesia dissipate.
- Anesthesiologists are experts in pain management, physiology, applied physiology & pharmacology, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and blood transfusion therapy.
- Successful anesthesiologists are: calm under intense stress; vigilant with compulsive attention to detail; effective communicators with excellent collaborative and interpersonal skills; decisive and able to swiftly integrate multiple streams of information into critical decision-making under pressure; possess physical stamina and excellent manual dexterity.
- Residency programs are 4 years in length. Most programs are now "Categorical" which means that all years of training are spent at the same residency program. There are still a few programs that are "Advanced" programs, which means that the PGY-1 intern year is completely separate (and typically completed at a different institution) from the actual anesthesiology residency program.
- Additional ACGME-accredited fellowship training after residency can be pursued in: Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Obstetric Anesthesia, Pain Medicine, Palliative Medicine, Pediatric Anesthesiology. Non-ACGME fellowships are also available in: Transplant, Acute Pain, Neuroanesthesia, QI, Research, Global Health.

Application advice

- Competitiveness of the field varies from year to year. Recent match statistics can be found on the NRMP website ("Data and Reports").
- Successful applicants demonstrate a proven record of leadership, emotional intelligence, professionalism, maturity and empathy - these are important character traits to highlight in your application.
- Research can be helpful and is somewhat important -- it demonstrates a commitment to the specialty, but it is not mandatory.
- **MS1 and MS2** years: Course grades and USMLE Step 1 scores in particular are very important and provide a surrogate measure of future academic success. Become involved in the ASIG and consider leadership roles. Pursue shadowing opportunities to "test drive" the specialty.
- **MS3** year: Performance in core clinical clerkships is extremely important. Begin identifying LOR writers from core rotations and other activities who know you well and can comment meaningfully on your clinical performance - these are very important. At least one LOR should be from an anesthesiologist. Consider the MS3 ANE430 core selective to confirm your interest in the specialty. Late Spring: Start working on your personal statement, CV, ERAS. Secure a spot on the ANE460 (late Spring to early Fall) elective roster for the MS4 year.
- **MS4** year: Complete the ANE460 rotation by the fall. Take Step 2 in time for residency applications -- your Step 2 score is very important. Consider 1-2 away AI rotations if there is a place that you are specifically interested in. Identify an anesthesiologist for LOR.
- UCD students have been extremely successful in the Anesthesiology match. Plan on applying to 30-40 programs and receiving invitations at ~ 50% of these. Most applicants end up interviewing at 10-15 programs. These numbers are generalities and may be shifted based on the candidate's competitiveness. Students are strongly encouraged to apply and interview at a wide variety of programs.