

Dermatology Residency Advice

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Initial Interest

- Ô Go to the UC Davis Dermatology Department Website for Students_ <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/dermatology/education/medstudents.html>
- Ô Dermatology electives start in the 4th year (MS4), so evaluate your interest by working with a dermatologist early.
- Ô A next step to further gauge your interest in Dermatology may be research in the area. The Medical Student Research Fellowship (MSRF) provides funding for research between the MS1 and MS2 years and is a good opportunity to explore this.

Mentorship

- Ô Recommend initial meeting with Dermatology specialty advisor as indicated above to discuss your USMLE scores, evaluations, and CV to determine your level of competitiveness and address any questions regarding the field in general and the application process.
- Ô If you perceive that there are weaknesses in your application, discuss these with the specialty advisor at the time of your meeting.

Away rotations

- Ô Apply to away rotations that regularly invite their rotators for interviews and programs that are of greater interest to you. These rotations can also provide the opportunity to request dermatology LORs, which are an important component of your residency application.
- Ô Schedule away rotations in the first few months of the MS4 year to (maximize working with faculty for LORs) before your application is due. Rotations after November are not so useful with regards to obtaining LORs.

Tips

- Read an introductory Dermatology book prior to and during your rotation. Review the AAD student curriculum <https://www.aad.org/education/basic-derm-curriculum>.
- Put on your best face for everyone. Show your interest in every case. Anticipate the next step in the clinic and ask if you can help assist with procedures. Recommend participating in all invited events.
- Work on (and ask for tips on) presenting Dermatologic history/physical and differential diagnosis.

Research

- Before taking on a project, discuss time lines and have realistic expectations about meeting them.
- Ô Taking a year to do research shows a stronger interest in the field and gives you the opportunity to develop relationships with faculty in the department. Research funds are sometimes available through the school and some research mentors may provide a stipend.
- Ô It is not necessary to do a year of research, especially if you have a strong application to start.

Letters of recommendation

- Ô Have at least 2-3 strong letters from dermatology faculty ideally, to include a chair letter.
- Ô Identify faculty who highlight different strengths (i.e. research talent, clinical skills, personality).
- Ô It is not necessary to have these letters on the day that you submit your ERAS

application, so ask your writer when to check in with them about your letter. Allow your letter writers ample time and advance notice to prepare your LOR.

Residency Application Timeline (most programs require applying to a preliminary PG1 year)

- ◌ July 1: Meetings
 - Meet your advisor to review your Personal Statement (PS) and Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - “Meet” with LOR writers by phone, email, or in-person (Including the Department Chair!). Email AND bring a hard copy of your PS, CV, transcript, and ERAS cover sheet
 - You can tailor your PS for specific programs if you desire
- ◌ September 15: Submit your application through ERAS!! It is typical to apply to 60-80 programs. Programs are sometimes regionally selective. Better to be selective with where you choose to interview rather than which programs you apply to given the highly competitive nature of the field.

Interviews

- ◌ Ask your mentor for tips regarding interviews and anticipate questions that may be asked. The interview is an important factor in the decision-making process of residency programs, in general.
- ◌ Every detail on your ERAS application is fair game, so make sure you know the details.
- ◌ Do your research on the programs where you are interviewing and the areas of expertise of the faculty that you will be interviewing with.