

General Surgery Residency Advice and Timeline

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Initial Interest:

Get involved with Surgery Interest Group and reach out to faculty members in fields of potential interest. Early mentor / mentee relationships will create opportunities for shadowing and research that will help strengthen your residency application.

February / March:

- General Information on General Surgery Residency programs (SOM Residency Fair).
- Identify a primary advisor based on prior work, shared interest or help from DL, HP, or ES above.

May: Set up meeting with advisor for initial records review

- Send your board scores, rotation grades and evaluations, and CV to your advisor prior to initial meeting and bring them to your meeting. Applying to residency is competitive and establishing realistic goals is essential to optimizing success in The Match.
- Finalize 4th year rotations
 - At least one AI at home and consider the utility of away AIs.
 - Remember that away rotations can help or hurt depending on the strength of your application and your performance while on the rotation.
- Identify letter writers (usually 3 letters)
 - Typical letters programs look for are from the Department Chair, Residency Program Director and any faculty members who have worked closely with you clinically or academically (research project).

June/July: Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), Personal Statement (PS), Curriculum Vitae (CV), and Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

- Register on MyERAS and start putting your application together.
- Review your PS and CV with your advisor by July 1st over email.
- Set up meetings with LOR writers. Work with their administrative assistants to arrange time in-person or over the phone.
- Email and bring hardcopies of your PS, CV, USMLE scores, transcript grades and ERAS cover sheet to your letter writers.

August: Final Application Review

- Review and finalize your ERAS application, PS and confirm that all letters are in by August 31st.
- Aim to have everything ready to go by September 1st to be able to submit as soon as ERAS is open. See ERAS website for exact dates.

October/November / December: Interviews

- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) is released on October 1st and interview invites will be sent out, if not already started.
- Interview season is late October through December.
 - Do a Mock Interview before your first interview. The experience is meant to be hard for feedback.
 - Avoid electives with more rigid clinical schedules during the interview season.

January/February: Sorting it all out and Rank List

- Meet with your advisor/mentor after completing your interviews. Review your notes to figure out which programs you liked and for what reasons.
- Discuss follow-up with your favorite programs with your advisor as your rank list comes together.
- Finalize your rank order list to submit by mid-February.

March: MATCH DAY