

Psychiatry Advising Timeline

Initial Faculty Contact (even if you're not sure yet):

- Lorin M. Scher, MD lmscher@ucdavis.edu or
- Laura Kenkel, MD lekenkel@ucdavis.edu
- Initial meeting: discuss your career goals, mentorship plan, and strategies

January / February: Group session about the application process

- General information on Psychiatry residency programs (categorical and combined)
- We recommend that you designate a primary advisor by May (Dr. Scher will help assign you one)

May: Email your advisor to set up your first meeting to review your records

- Discuss letter writers -- we recommend four letters
- At least two should be from psychiatrists
- Recommend one from a non-psychiatrist clinician where you performed well
- Also consider research/extracurricular mentor who knows you well
- Openly discuss your scores, evaluations, and CV to determine competitiveness and possible programs
- Finalize 4th year schedule at this point
 - Usually one psychiatry AI, maybe 2 AIs based on interest
 - If there are weaknesses in your application, plan on some away rotations where you may want to match
 - Away "audition" rotations can help but also could hurt you. Consider if you do well in these situations.
 - Plan for interview schedules, beginning in late October peaking in November and December, some in January

July: ERAS, Personal Statement (PS), Curriculum Vitae (CV), and letters

- Have first draft of your PS and CV ready to review with your advisor by mid-July
 - Meetings via email ok, but in-person can be helpful
 - "Meet" with letter writers by phone, email, or in-person
 - Email AND bring a hard copy of your PS, CV, transcript, and ERAS cover sheet to your writers

August: meet with advisor to review ERAS application (email ok)

- Review and Finalize ERAS application, PS, and confirm LORs are in by Sept 15th
- All ERAS elements should be in by 9/1 (to submit 9/15)

September / October: Group dinner with psychiatry faculty and residents

- Discuss strategies for success during interview season
- October 1st: MSPE released. Most programs roll out interview invites in October
- Complete Mock Interview by the end of October

November / December / January: Complete interviews

- Meet with advisor after interviews (late January / February)
- What programs did you like? Did you follow up with your favorite programs?
- Start putting Match list together

February: Complete rank order list (discuss with advisor as needed)

March – Match Day!