M4 Advising Checklist

Goals

• Conduct a reality-check on specialty choice options
• Prepare plan and timeline for residency application and supporting materials
• Review program application materials
• Discuss residency program selection, interviews, and ranking

Advising Framework

Fourth-year students focus intently on applying for residency, interviewing, and the Match. Discuss the student’s specialty choice and qualifications for the specialty/ies and programs they’re targeting. Help undecided students decipher the cause of their indecision and support their steps toward a decision. Prepare for difficult conversations with unrealistic students by presenting current and relevant match outcomes data, and help brainstorm other or back-up options, as needed. Review personal statements and practice tough interview questions. Check in periodically during the application and interview process to ensure a robust interview schedule and successful match.

Questions for discussion

☐ Curricular concerns
• What senior year rotations have you completed?
• What electives have you completed?
• Describe your performance so far in your clinical rotations.

☐ Specialty choice
• What factors are most important to you in choosing a specialty?
• What specialty/ies are you considering?
• How well do your qualifications match with the specialty/ies you’re considering?
• How confident are you in your specialty decision?
• If you’re undecided, what would help you to make a decision and how can I help?

☐ Selecting programs
• Where are you considering applying for residency?
• What factors are most important to you in considering where you’d like to complete your training?
• How many programs are you planning to apply to?

☐ Residency application, interviewing, and the Match
• Who have you requested letters of recommendation from?
• Would you like me to review your personal statement? Have you had other people review your personal statement?
• How prepared do you feel to interview? What questions do you have about the interview process?
• What have you done to budget or ensure you have the financial resources for interview travel?
Advising Students

- What programs have you interviewed for so far? How have you liked them?
- How many programs do you plan to rank?

CiM Tools and Resources

- Specialty Pages
- Choosing a Specialty Exercise
- Residency Preference Exercise
- Specialty indecision scale (if students haven’t decided)
- Frequently Asked Interview Questions

Other Tools and Resources

- AMA’s FREIDA database
- AAMC’s Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
- AAMC’s Visiting Student Application Service (VSAS)
- The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)
- The San Francisco Matching Programs
- The American Urological Association Residency Matching Program