Overview of M4 year

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Omnes reliquite spes, o vos intrantes

Abandon hope, all ye who enter here

Outline of today’s presentation
- Overview of M4 year
- Backwards design- Keep timeline in mind
- Prep work that needs to get done
  - Career choice
  - Residency application
  - Letters of recommendation
  - MSPE letter (Dean’s letter)
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Personal statement

Required course work in M4 year

All four (4) required M4 courses must be completed at MCW
- Acting internship - surgery
- Acting internship - medicine
- Ambulatory medicine
- Integrated selective
M4 elective course work

- Review MCW Career Guide for suggested electives (need to complete total of five [5])
- Most M4 students enroll in the Preparing for Internship (PFI) course in May
- Maximum of four (4) elective months can be completed as “away” electives
- Maximum of two (2) elective months in any one subspecialty area (“audition electives”)

Strategies for choosing M4 electives

- Clarify your career choice - **This is job one!**
- Increase exposure to specialty area.
- Obtain letters of recommendation from physicians in future specialty area.
- Address potential areas of weakness.
- Graduate from MCW as a broad-based and well-rounded physician.

Away electives

- Need to be in good academic standing.
- **Start to research now.**
- Most schools don’t process these requests until after NRMP match in March, but this is variable.
- AAMC has a visiting student application service (VSAS). Not all schools use it.

AAMC – VSAS

Visiting Student Application Service

Should I do an away elective?

- **Not required.**
- You will receive conflicting advice regarding scheduling away elective rotations in your field of choice.
  - “It can only hurt you.” - equivalent to a 30-day interview
  - “It can really help you.” - get a better feel for an institution & they get an extended look at you.

International electives
Overview of M4 year – last 1/3
- May 15, 2015: Graduation
- May: Prep for Internship (9)
- April: Course work (8)
- March 1, 2015: Pass USMLE/Step 2-CK
- Post Step 2-CS
- March 20, 2015: NRMP Match results
- March: Course work (7)
- February, 2015: Students and programs submit NRMP match lists

Overview of M4 year – middle 1/3
- February: Course work (6)
- January: Vacation/Interview
- December: Vacation/Interview
- November: Course work (5)
- October: Course work (4)

Overview of M4 year – first 1/3
- October 1, 2014: MSPE letter released
- September 15, 2014: Residency programs can download applications
- September: Course work (3)
- August: Course work (2)
- July: Course work (1)
- June: Optional start of M4 year

Early Matches
- January, 2015:
  - Ophthalmology
  - Urology
- December, 2014:
  - Military match
  - San Francisco match
  - AUA match
Military Match

Become familiar with special requirements:
- Specific rotations that may need to be completed at military hospitals
- Timeline for USMLE Step 2 score reporting
- Other military-specific timelines, rules and regulations

Resources:
- Dr. Ken Lee (PM&R at MCW)
- Dr. Michael McBride (MCW Psychiatry)
- Dr. Paul Hemmer (GIM at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda)

Prep work that needs to get done

- Career choice - This is job one!
- Selecting your M4 advisor
- Setting up M4 schedule, including away electives

Who should I pick as my advisor?

- Someone who is:
  - Familiar with you
  - Knowledgeable about your future career choice and residency programs
  - Available to meet with you on an as needed basis (more than one occasion)
  - On campus (?)

Picking an M4 advisor

- You need to select an M4 advisor by January 31, 2014 (if you don’t RSVP, someone will be selected for you).
- M4 advisor program coordinated by Jennifer Janowitz in Academic Affairs Office.
- Your M4 advisor is responsible for signing off on your senior year schedule and approving all of your away/unlisted M4 electives.
Dr. Sebastian’s M4 advisor

Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Formerly called the Dean’s letter
- Structured narrative with graphic display of MCW grade distributions
- One of the Deans will write your MSPE
  - Dawn Bragg
  - Dick Holloway
  - Phil Redlich
  - TBA (?)

Letters of Recommendation (LOR)
- Faculty expect to be asked to write LOR
- Usually Chairman’s Letter plus two (2) more
- Who should I ask to write my LOR?
  - Faculty members (not residents) – chief residents?
  - Ask future residency program if they have specific preferences as to whom writes your LOR
  - “Big name” versus “no-name” who knows you well

USMLE Step 2-CK and CS
- Register for Step 2-CS as early as possible.
- MCW graduation requirements:
  - must achieve a **passing** score on Step 2-CK by March 1, 2015
  - must **post** a score on Step 2-CS by March 1, 2015
- Residency Program Directors may want your Step 2-CK score before submitting final NRMP rank lists in late February.

Interviews
- How many should I schedule?
- Submit application materials early enough to allow maximum flexibility in scheduling your interviews
- Two (2) interview months should suffice – no entitlements/guarantees during other months
- Most M4 rotations have a specific time-off policy – **make sure you know what it is!**