



M4 Coursework Information

This guide is intended to assist students in selecting and scheduling courses based upon their specialty of interest.

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ANESTHESIOLOGY

- I. Recommended courses:
 - Cardiology
 - Pulmonary Medicine
 - Critical Care Medicine (Intensive Care)
 - General Medicine
 - Emergency
 - Otolaryngology
 - Anesthesiology: Pain Management
 - Anesthesiology: Anesthesia for Trauma and Emergencies
 - Anesthesiology Acting Internship

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Clinical Anesthesiology
 - General Anesthesia
 - Anesthesiology
 - Pediatric Pain Management/Pediatric Anesthesiology
 - Obstetric Anesthesia
 - Advanced Anesthesia
 - Research-Cardiovascular and Respiratory Regulation
 - High Risk Anesthesia Consultation



DERMATOLOGY

- I. Recommended courses:
 - Dermatology
 - Rheumatology
 - Allergy/Immunology
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Oncology
 - Pathology
 - Plastic Surgery

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Away rotation in dermatology



EMERGENCY MEDICINE

- I. Recommended courses:
 - Away elective in EM
 - Trauma surgery (if not already completed)
 - Critical Care Medicine/Surgery
 - Pediatric EM
 - Cardiology
 - Orthopedics/Sports Medicine
 - Radiology
 - Ophthalmology

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - EM rotation at a site that houses a residency program
 - An additional away elective in EM at another institution
 - A Pediatric EM (PEM) rotation should not supercede an additional rotation in EM, due to the variability in the needed standard letter of recommendation in PEM. For those not planning an away rotation, a PEM elective is recommended.

- III. Additional information:
 - If spots are filled early in the year, students may have to add themselves to a waiting list.
 - Students on the waiting list are encouraged to contact the course coordinator to discuss options and strategy, which will include remaining on the list but also pursuing an away rotation to obtain the necessary letter of recommendation.



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

I. Recommended Courses

- One or more M4 course experience in Family Medicine. Options include:
 - Courses at our three MCW Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM) affiliated Family Medicine residence programs.
 - Courses on campus with MCW DFCM faculty
 - Away electives in family medicine (residency /community-based)
- Courses in broad content areas pertinent to scope of Family Medicine (2 or 3 months)
 - Medical experiences (mostly office-based): Adult and Pediatric Emergency Medicine electives, Dermatology, Cardiology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Sports Medicine, Radiology, Adolescent Medicine, and Infectious Diseases.
 - Surgical experience (office-based or hospital-based): Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Urology, Otolaryngology.
 - Women's health experiences: Inpatient OB/GYN and/or office-based GYN
- Courses in areas of special interest to you, e.g. International Health.

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

- At least one letter of recommendation should be from a family physician. Additional clinical letters from other specialties are welcomed (and typical).
Suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation from family medicine:
 - Family Medicine M3 Clerkship
 - Acting Internships in Family Medicine
 - M4 Ambulatory Clerkship
 - Family Medicine Residency Electives
 - Rural Ambulatory Medicine Elective
 - Away Clinical Elective in family medicine

III. Additional Information:

- All courses through DFCM will provide students with one-on-one faculty experience that will facilitate a letter; however, courses with significant clinical faculty interactions that may best facilitate letters of recommendation (see above).
- Elective or core rotations during July, August, and September of your M4 year are the best timing in the M4 year to obtain letters of recommendation.
- Please contact us if you have any questions. We can get you connected! Doug Bower, MD, Director of Med. Student Education, DFCM (dbower@mcw.edu) or Stephanie Shaw, MSM, MBA, Manager of Med. Student Education, DFCM (sshaw@mcw.edu)



MEDICINE

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Ambulatory Internal Medicine
 - Medicine Acting Internship
 - Second Acting Internship in one of the medical subspecialty options (MICU, Cardiology, BMT, Hospital Medicine, or Geriatric Medicine), on a surgical subspecialty (e.g. Transplant Surgery), or significant intensive care unit experience (e.g. Cardiothoracic Surgery).
 - Combination of one or two electives within a subspecialty division of Internal Medicine (Hospital Medicine, Cardiology, Infectious Diseases, Geriatrics, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology/Oncology, Pulmonary, MICU, etc) as well as 2 or 3 electives sponsored by other departments that might include:
 - Dermatology
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Adult Neurology
 - Diagnostic Radiology
 - Psychiatry
 - Orthopaedics (esp. office-based or sports medicine)
 - Synecology (esp. office-based)
 - Surgical subspecialty rotations (ENT, ophthalmology, urology)
 - Physical medicine and rehabilitation
 - Electives that allow students to pursue particular interests (research, medical humanities, teaching, advanced physical exam, international health)

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation (completed by July or August if possible):
 - Medicine Acting Internship
 - Ambulatory Internal Medicine
 - Second Medicine-based Acting Internship

- III. Additional Information:
 - All students are strongly encouraged to meet with a Department of Medicine faculty member for individual counseling and advice during the M3 year.
 - Contact the M3 Clerkship Coordinator or M4 Coordinator to make an appointment. You will also need to schedule a meeting with the Chair to discuss the Department of Medicine Chair Letter which is required by most IM residency programs.



NEUROLOGY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Medical subspecialties (esp. cardiology, renal medicine, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, intensive care or infectious diseases)
 - Pediatric subspecialties (esp. cardiology, child development or neonatal medicine)
 - Neuro-radiology
 - Rehabilitation Medicine
 - Liaison Psychiatry
 - Neurology

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Exposure to neurosurgery, neuroradiology, and medical subspecialties such as cardiology and infectious diseases

- III. Additional Information:
 - Successful completion of the required clerkship is prerequisite for an elective in Neurology
 - All students interested in a career in Neurology should contact Jennifer Her, Coordinator.



NEUROSURGERY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Internal Medicine
 - Neurology
 - Interventional Neuroradiology
 - Cardiology
 - Endocrinology
 - Neurocritical Care
 - Trauma
 - Neurosurgery

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - The letters of recommendations would come from the recommended courses.



OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Ambulatory Internal Medicine or Family Medicine
 - Internal Medicine Acting Internship
 - ICE (Medicine or Surgery)
 - Emergency Medicine

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining relevant experience and/or letters of recommendation:
 - Adolescent Medicine (Department of Pediatrics)
 - Advance Clinical Human Anatomy
 - Anesthesiology (esp. Obstetric)
 - Cardiology
 - Consult Psychiatry
 - Dermatology
 - Female Urology
 - Genetics
 - Infectious Diseases
 - Master Clinician: Adv. Skills for Residency and Beyond
 - Medical Consults
 - Medical Endocrinology
 - Multi-disciplinary Management of Breast Disease
 - Neonatology
 - Nephrology
 - Radiology
 - Surgical Pathology
 - Away elective in Obstetrics and Gynecology

- III. Additional Information:
 - A broad schedule with a variety of courses in different disciplines is recommended
 - Students should not take more than one course in obstetrics/gynecology except in special circumstances and after consultation with the Chair.



OPHTHALMOLOGY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Multidisciplinary Applications such as infectious diseases, radiology, allergy/immunology
 - Conditions that Overlap with Ophthalmic disease such as otorhinolaryngology, dermatology, endocrinology, rheumatology, and neurology.

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Broad-based medical experiences
 - Clinical and research subspecialty areas of ophthalmology

- III. Additional Information:
 - Students should contact their advisor as early as possible for a curriculum planning discussion as ophthalmology residencies participate in a separate match program with an earlier application deadline than the National Residency Match Program.
 - Interested students should seek electives during the months of July through October as interviews for ophthalmology residency programs are usually held in November and December.
 - Contact the Ophthalmology Department Coordinator for additional information.



ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Orthopaedic Surgery (2 months)
 - Intensive Care Unit or Emergency Medicine (1 month)
 - Anesthesiology, Plastic Surgery, or Radiology (1 month)

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Sub-Internships and electives at Froedtert East Clinic and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
 - Integrated elective courses

- III. Additional Information:
 - The Sub-Internship and 4-week elective at Froedtert from August through mid-October are used as MCW students interview for the Match to our Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program.



OTOLARYNGOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

I. Recommended Courses:

- Adult and Pediatric Sleep Medicine
- Anesthesiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Critical Care Medicine
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Vascular Surgery

Any students who are interested in Otolaryngology should contact Dr. Jonathan Bock (jboc@mcw.edu) to discuss their strategy/plan for scheduling coursework.

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

- General Surgery
- Away Otolaryngology rotation (please contact Dr. Bock to discuss this further).

III. Additional Information:

PATHOLOGY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Pathology Rotation at MCW (Anatomic Pathology, Clinical Pathology/Hematopathology, Blood Bank-Transfusion Medicine, Forensic Pathology, Advanced Anatomic Pathology)
 - Away Rotation in Pathology

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Away Rotation in Pathology
 - Medical Hematology/Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Orthopaedic Oncology or Gynecologic Oncology
 - Subspecialty surgical services: thoracic, colorectal, ear/nose/throat or transplant
 - Gynecology (non-oncologic)
 - Gastroenterology/Hepatology
 - Urology
 - Dermatology
 - General Surgery (beyond basic requirements)
 - Additional training in General Medicine

- III. Additional Information:
 - Our department welcomes students with a strong interest in Pathology to secure a faculty mentor or research advisor within the department.

PEDIATRICS

I. Recommended Courses:

- Allergy
- Anesthesiology
- Radiology
- Dermatology
- Orthopaedics
- ENT
- Neurology

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

- Neonatology Acting-Internship
- Pediatric Acting-Internship

III. Additional Information:

- In addition, consider that you will need to make the decision to specialize or go into primary care very early in your residency program, typically by the end of your 2nd year of training.
- Considering that most residency programs offer only 1 or possibly 2 electives during your intern year, you will want to use your fourth year to do various specialty electives for career exploration, if that is something you are considering.
- If a student is not yet certain he/she wishes to go into Pediatrics, it is recommended that the student take an elective in a community pediatric practice, an acting internship or a pediatric subspecialty elective early in the senior year.
- We suggest taking an elective at that program (e.g. a subspecialty elective or acting internship). This elective should ideally occur before November or December.
- This might include a research elective or an elective in another country. Third world experiences are particularly valuable.



PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION

I. Recommended Courses:

- Neurology
- Geriatrics
- Orthopaedic Surgery/Sports Medicine
- Medicine Sub-Internship
- Neurosurgery
- Urology
- Rheumatology
- Palliative Medicine
- Cardiology
- Plastic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Radiology

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

III. Additional Information:

- It would be well-advised to discuss the specifics of their elective schedule with a member of the Department of PM&R so that the goals of the individual can be well served by the elective. Our department welcomes students with a strong interest in PM&R to secure a faculty mentor or research advisor within the department.
- Interviews for PM&R residency applicants commonly occur November through January. If you are interested in applying to a PM&R residency program, there may be value in choosing an elective early, allowing time to procure a letter of recommendation.

PLASTIC SURGERY

I. Recommended Courses:

- Plastic Surgery Sub-Internship
- General Surgery Sub-Internship
- Emergency Medicine
- Dermatology
- Infectious Diseases
- Radiology
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Anesthesiology
- Surgical ICU
- Pediatric Surgery
- Otolaryngology

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

III. Additional Information:

- Take the Plastic/Hand Surgery elective or Craniofacial & Pediatric Plastic Surgery Integrated Elective early in the year if you are unable to schedule a Plastic Surgery Sub-Internship



PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE

I. Recommended Courses:

- Consultation/liaison psychiatry at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital
- Inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry at Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division (MCBHD)
- Emergency psychiatry at Psychiatric Crisis Service (MCBHD)
- Outpatient and consultation in child and adolescent psychiatry at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- Acting Internship at the Clement J. Zablocki Veteran's Administration Medical Center

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

III. Additional Information:

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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RADIATION ONCOLOGY

I. Recommended Courses:

- General Medical (including Medical Oncology)
- Surgery (particularly surgical subspecialties such as Surgical Oncology, Otolaryngology, Urology and possibly Neurosurgery or Thoracic Surgery)
- Radiology (including Nuclear Medicine)
- Gynecology (particularly Gynecologic Oncology)
- Pathology
- Pediatric Oncology

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

- Radiation oncologists

III. Additional Information:

- Research in the field of radiation oncology is also extremely important in order to be a competitive applicant.
- The vast majority of applicants for radiation oncology do a rotation outside their own institution. Given the competitive nature of the specialty, this is essential to improve chances of matching. Most students do this early in their senior year so that they can get letters of recommendation.

RADIOLOGY

- I. Recommended Courses:
 - Gastroenterology
 - Medical oncology
 - Neurology
 - Neurosurgery
 - Orthopaedic surgery
 - Otolaryngology
 - Pathology
 - Pulmonary medicine
 - Radiation oncology
 - Surgical oncology
 - Urology
 - Vascular surgery

- II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:
 - Interventional Radiology
 - Pediatric Radiology

- III. Additional Information:

SURGERY

I. Recommended Courses:

- Acute Care Surgery
- Trauma & Critical Care
- Transplant Surgery
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- General Surgery
- Pediatric
- Surgical Intensive Care
- Multi-Disciplinary Management of Vascular Disease
- Multi-Disciplinary Management of Breast Disease
- Multi-Disciplinary Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Multi-Disciplinary Management of Morbid Obesity

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

III. Additional Information:

- Senior students interested in a career in surgery should complete a surgical acting internship early in the 4th year, preferably before October. This will allow students to gain relevant experience and have the opportunity to obtain letters of recommendation.
- It is also highly recommended that students gain experience in the management of patients in the ICU by taking an acting internship or elective on a critical care service. Other valuable rotations for a surgical career include: Radiology, Anatomic Pathology, and Cardiology. Other valuable rotations to consider are: Anesthesiology, Radiology, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine and Surgical Pathology.

UROLOGY

I. Recommended Courses:

- MCW Urology Sub-Internship
- Away Urology Sub-Internship
- Radiology
- Surgical ICU or surgery rotation
- Nephrology
- Anesthesiology
- Internal medicine
- Emergency medicine

II. Other early course suggestions for obtaining letters of recommendation:

III. Additional Information: