



American University of the Caribbean
School of Medicine

OCA Match Corner

Office of Career Advisement

Elective Rotations & Researching Specialties



Elective Rotation Overview

**Selecting
Your 4th Year
Electives**

**Non-Affiliated
Sites**

**Audition
Rotations**



Selecting Fourth-Year Elective Rotations

Identify Your Specialty & Desired Location

Consider the rotations you have enjoyed the most.

Review the suggested elective rotation information based on graduates that have matched in your preferred specialty using the ***Suggested Elective Guide***.

Research the licensing requirements for the regions you are interested in as certain states may require completion of specific electives (ex: California & Texas require 4 weeks of Family Medicine clerkship for medical licensure).



Selecting Fourth-Year Elective Rotations

Subspecialty/Sub-Internships

Complete a Sub-I in your preferred specialty.

Complete a rotation in a complementary specialty or subspecialty to help better understand the specialty, increase your experience, and boost your application.

Consider completing a rotation at a location that you are interested in for residency to serve as an audition rotation and to request a LoR.

Research programs you are interested in applying to for residency to see if they have requirements regarding certain electives or require applicants to complete a rotation at their site.



Selecting Fourth-Year Elective Rotations

Keep in Mind

Request LoRs from rotations that interest you. This will open your opportunities up to more potential specialties if you are undecided.

Complete a Family Medicine elective.
This can help build a foundation for any future specialty.

Consider electives in areas you would like more exposure to,
or that could help you improve certain weaknesses.

Clerkships carry more weight in your residency application, but if you have downtime between rotations, observerships can serve as an opportunity to gain exposure to a private practice or hospital setting where clerkships may not be an option.



Non-Affiliated Sites

On occasion, students will choose to complete elective clerkships at sites that are unaffiliated with AUC.

AUC students may complete only 2 electives for a total of 8 weeks of elective clerkships per unaffiliated site.

Audition rotations provide students with the opportunity to rotate at a site of interest with the goal of obtaining a LoR and an interview.

When choosing a site, focus on sites that have a positive and effective relationship and history with IMGs. Consider locations that have AUC graduates as residents. This can help ensure the most productive learning experience.

***Please Note:** AUC students are unable to rotate in certain states due to state legislature (ex: New Jersey), but many students are able to gain residency and fellowship positions in those states despite being unable to complete a rotation in the state as a medical student.



UME Student Services

Scheduling Electives FAQ

How do I schedule elective rotations?

How do I schedule an elective rotation at an unaffiliated site?

Do electives at unaffiliated sites have to be ACGME-accredited?

How many rotation weeks are allowed for unaffiliated sites?

Is there reimbursement for unaffiliated sites?

How do I apply to Canadian sites?

UME can assist with the questions above. Please reach out to umestudentservices@aucmed.edu.



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Researching Specialties & Programs



Aspects to Consider

**Your Interests:
Favorite Rotation(s)
& Why**

Length of Training

**Desired Level of Patient
Interaction**

**Work Schedule
Post-Training**

**Daily Work Environment
& Specialty Functions**

Lifestyle

**Your Competitiveness for
the Specialty**

**Number of IMG/AUC
Graduates that have
Matched into
the Specialty**

Desired Practice Setting



Resources

NRMP Data Reports

Results & Data | Charting Outcomes for IMGs | Program Director Survey

[FREIDA Specialty Guide](#)

[Careers in Medicine](#)

[AUC'S OCA Website](#)

[AUC Physician Match
Advisor](#)

[OCA Advisors](#)



Researching Competitiveness of Specialty

Number of Spots Available

Percentage of spots filled by IMGs

Average Step Scores for Matched Applicants

Factors Programs Weigh Most Heavily for Certain Specialties



Assess Your Competitiveness

*Consider These Factors in Comparison
to Matched Applicants in the Specialties You Are Considering*





Parallel Specialty

What is a Parallel Specialty?

**A specialty of interest
that you are
competitive for**

**Highly encouraged, especially
if you are pursuing a
competitive specialty**

**A specialty you apply to
in addition to your
preferred specialty**

**A good strategy to consider if you aren't as competitive for your preferred
specialty as you would like to be**



USMLE® Step 1 Performance for 2017, 2018 and 2019 Classes

Specialty	# Residency Placements	% Matched into Specialty	AUC Mean	IMGs Mean*
			Step 1	
Anesthesiology	17	3.1%	232	231
Dermatology	1	0.2%	N/A**	238
Emergency Medicine	18	3.3%	238	232
Family Medicine	150	27.5%	211	211
Internal Medicine	202	37.0%	226	224
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	3	0.5%	227	224
Neurological Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	236
Neurology	9	1.6%	229	227
Ob/Gyn	12	2.2%	231	229
Orthopedic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	239
Pathology	5	0.9%	224	226
Pediatrics	40	7.3%	220	221
Plastic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**
PM&R	2	0.4%	225	226
Psychiatry	29	5.3%	219	224
Radiology-Diagnostic	9	1.6%	248	239
Surgery-General	13	2.4%	242	237
Surgery-Vascular	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**

*Source: [2018 NRMP's Charting Outcomes in the Match for International Medical Graduates](#) ** Data too few to report



USMLE® Step 2 CK Performance for 2017, 2018 and 2019 Classes

Specialty	# Residency Placements	% Matched into Specialty	AUC Mean	IMGs Mean*
			Step 2 CK	
Anesthesiology	17	3.1%	242	237
Dermatology	1	0.2%	N/A**	246
Emergency Medicine	18	3.3%	244	241
Family Medicine	150	27.5%	225	225
Internal Medicine	202	37.0%	235	234
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	3	0.5%	239	233
Neurological Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	242
Neurology	9	1.6%	230	234
Ob/Gyn	12	2.2%	239	238
Orthopedic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	245
Pathology-Anatomical and Clinical	5	0.9%	232	230
Pediatrics	40	7.3%	231	232
Plastic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**
PM&R	2	0.4%	218	232
Psychiatry	29	5.3%	236	227
Radiology-Diagnostic	9	1.6%	250	242
Surgery-General	13	2.4%	247	245
Surgery-Vascular	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**

*Source: [2018 NRMP's Charting Outcomes in the Match for International Medical Graduates](#) ** Data to few to report



Strategies to Consider

Select a parallel specialty

Complete an elective in your preferred & parallel specialties

Obtain LoRs in both your preferred and parallel specialties

Don't put all your eggs in one basket when selecting your electives

Make the most of your time in your clinical rotations

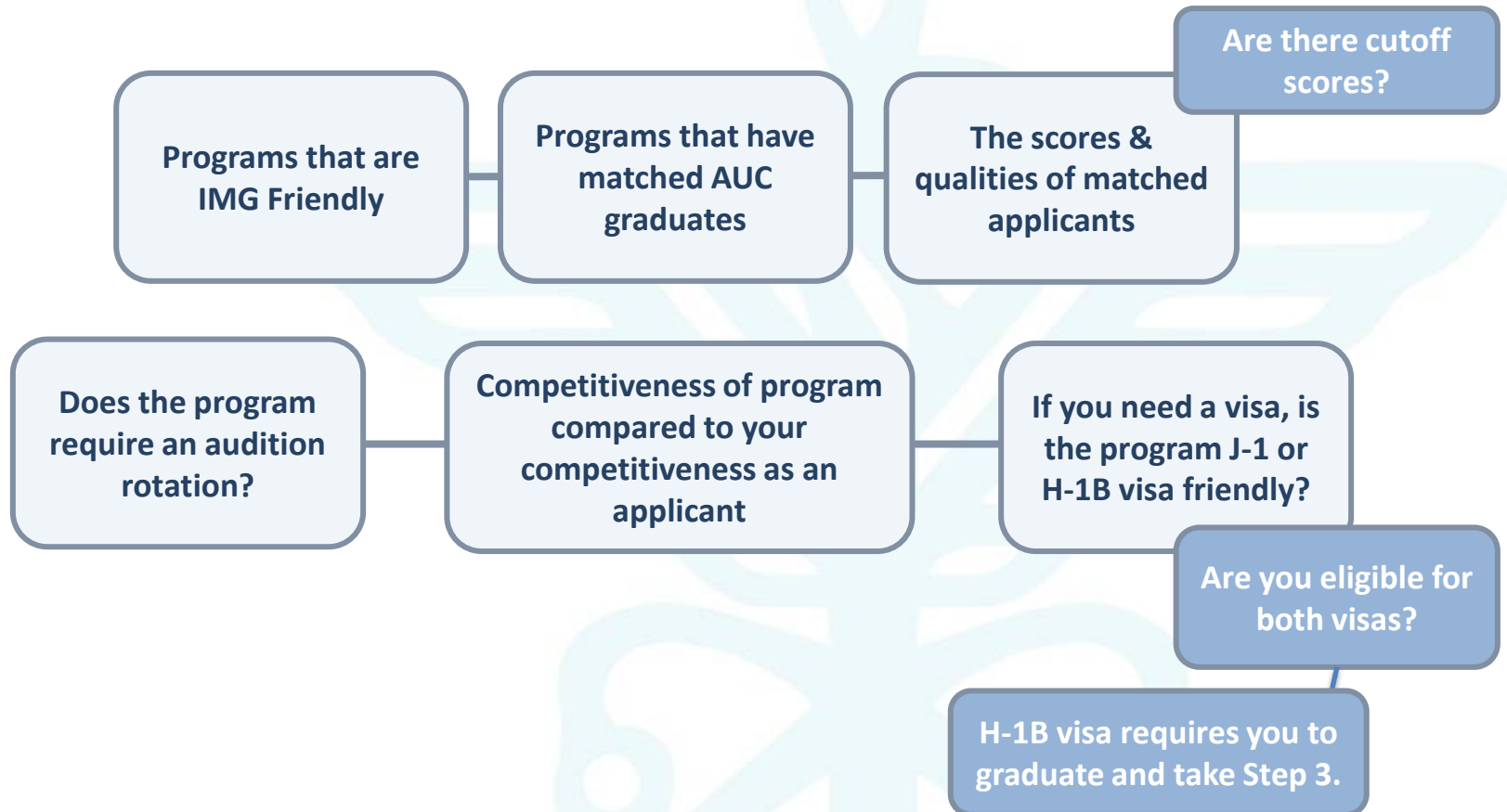
Consider IMG friendly specialties

Use data and resources (NRMP Charting Outcomes, Program Director Survey, etc.) to review the most important citing factors for certain specialties and qualities of matched IMG applicants.

Consider your qualities and how they compare to the qualities of matched applicants in specific specialties.
Do you have similar qualities, scores, experiences, etc.?
Are there areas in which you can improve?

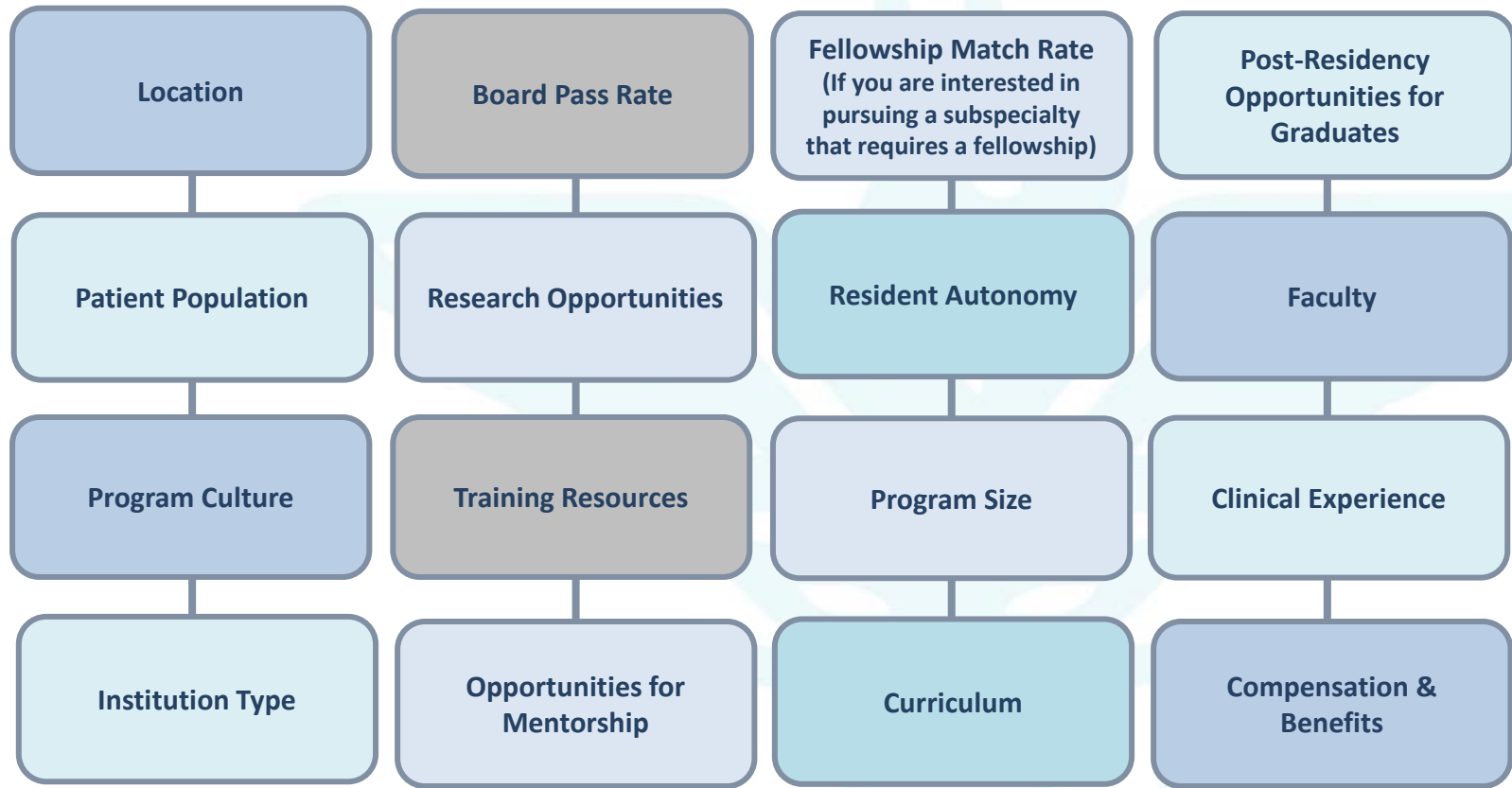


Things to Consider





Consider Which Factors are Most Important to You





Resources for Researching Specific Programs

[NRMP
Data Reports](#)

[Careers in Medicine](#)

[ACGME
Program Search](#)

[Freida
The AMA Residency
Database](#)

[Residency Explorer](#)

[Rotations at Sites
with Residency
Programs of Interest](#)

[Match A Resident](#)

[Program's Website](#)

[Specialty Specific
Residency Fairs](#)