



American University of the Caribbean  
School of Medicine

# OSPD Match Corner

*Office of Student Professional Development*

*Elective Rotations & Researching Specialties*



## Elective Rotation Overview

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**Selecting  
Your 4<sup>th</sup> 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?**



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*Office of Student Professional Development*

*Researching Specialties & Programs*



## Aspects to Consider

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**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

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### NRMP Data Reports

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

Freida Specialty Guide

Careers in Medicine

AUC'S OSPD Website

AUC Physician Match  
Advisor

OSPD Advisors



## Researching Competitiveness of Specialty

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**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



## Top IMG Friendly Specialties

### Top 5 US-IMG Friendly Specialties in 2019

Rank	Specialty	Total Positions	Total Positions Filled	# Filled by US IMGs
1	Internal Medicine (Categorical)	8,116	7,892	1,107
2	Family Medicine	4,107	3,827	744
3	Pediatrics (Categorical)	2,847	2,778	222
4	Psychiatry (Categorical)	1,740	1,720	147
5	Emergency Medicine	2,488	2,458	112

### Top 5 Non-US-IMG Friendly Specialties in 2019

Rank	Specialty	Total Positions	Total Positions Filled	# Filled by Non-US IMGs
1	Internal Medicine (Categorical)	8,116	7,892	2,096
2	Family Medicine	4,107	3,827	369
3	Pediatrics (Categorical)	2,847	2,778	305
4	Pathology	601	1,720	210
5	Neurology	617	2,458	205

National Resident Matching Program, Results and Data: 2019 Main Residency Match®. National Resident Matching Program, Washington, DC. 2019.



## 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

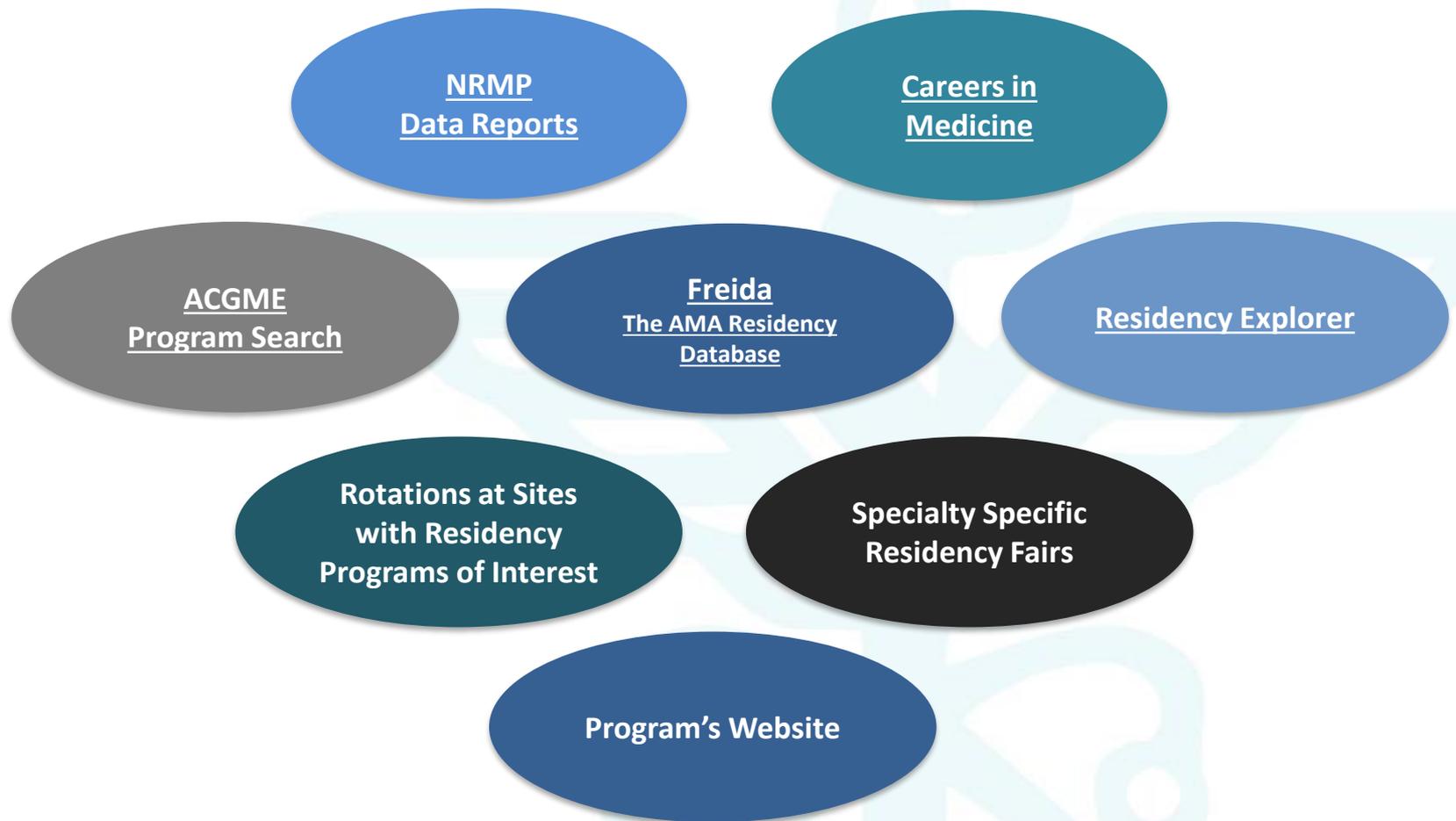
Use data and resources (NRMP Charting Outcomes, Program Director Survey, etc.) to review the most important citing factors for certain specialties and qualities of matched IMG applicants.

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?



## Resources for Researching Specific Programs

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## Student Services | Stay Connected

### Office of Student Professional Development (OSPD)

Department Email: [ospd@aucmed.edu](mailto:ospd@aucmed.edu) | Department Phone: 305-446-0600, option 5

*Students and graduates can [schedule an appointment](#) to discuss the residency application process and match strategy with an OSPD Advisor.*

### UME Student Services

Department Email: [umestudentservices@aucmed.edu](mailto:umestudentservices@aucmed.edu)

Department Phone: 305-446-0600, option 3

### Office of the Registrar

Department Email: [aucregistrar@aucmed.edu](mailto:aucregistrar@aucmed.edu)

Department Phone: 305-446-0600, option 4