

## Advising M4's 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

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- 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 available on [www.aamc.org/cim](http://www.aamc.org/cim)

- Medical specialties information
- Compare specialties tool
- Residency Preference Exercise
- Specialty Indecision Scale (if students haven't decided)
- CV samples
- Frequently Asked Interview Questions
- Match Timeline

### Other Tools and Resources

- AMA's [FREIDA database](#)
- AAMC's [Electronic Residency Application Service \(ERAS\)](#)
- AAMC's [Visiting Student Application Service \(VSAS\)](#)
- AAMC's [Extramural Electives Compendium](#) (electives database)
- [Charting Outcomes in the Match](#) report
- The [National Resident Matching Program \(NRMP\)](#)
- The [San Francisco Matching Program](#)
- The [American Urological Association Residency Matching Program](#)