

Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



WAYNE STATE
School of Medicine
Office of Student Affairs
and Career Development

Dermatology



Priority scheduling

Dermatology rotations can be done any time between early in the 4th year until October. If necessary, a rotation can be done in November. The decision for invitations for residency application is often not made until November, so an impression can still be made.

Rotations are recommended at both the Wayne State and Henry Ford programs. In addition, I recommend that you perform an away rotation in an outside program. The decision for the outside program that you choose should be one preferably that you have a connection to. Our students have had the most success at institutions in the Midwest in the past.



Recommended year 4 electives

The Sub-I can be done either early or late.



Suggested interview months

- Take USMLE Step II in September at the latest.
- Most interviews occur in December or January for Dermatology. You will also have to have time available for transitional year interviews. Many of these are done in November.
- I recommend taking at least one open month between December and January.



USMLE Step 2CK: timing/target scores/etc.

In the past, USMLE scores above 245 were considered optimal. In the future with the phasing out of USMLE Step I scores, Step II scores will become more important as well as grades in clinical rotations.



Letters of Recommendation

You will need three letters of recommendation. Not all three will need to be from dermatologists.

- I recommend two from dermatologists and the third from a physician who knows you well. This may be a letter of recommendation from one of your required rotations where you worked well with an attending physician.
- Remember a letter of recommendation from someone who knows you well is better than a letter of recommendation from someone who is well known, but does not know you.

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Additional Recommendations

Research and publications are important for matching into highly competitive specialties. By the time you finish your 4th year, you should have undertaken some research and publications from prior years. Please take the opportunity in your early M4 year to finish up your projects and submit them so that you can list them as such on your ERAS application.



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