

# Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



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

## Family Medicine



### Priority scheduling

1. Choose a Sub-Internship in Family Medicine
2. Complete your Family Medicine Sub-I between April and October
3. Choose a Family Medicine Sub-I at a local program where you want to interview



### Recommended year 4 electives

Family Medicine is all about variety and a broad scope of practice so year 4 is a great time to explore your interests. This may include radiology, sports medicine, clinical cardiology, and dermatology.

- That being said, how and where do you see yourself practicing medicine 5 years from now. Will you be in a rural setting, inner city or suburban area?
- Do you like doing procedures in the office?
- Are you interested in using point of care Ultrasound (POCUS)?
- Do you want to manage uncomplicated pregnancies?

All of these questions can help to guide your approach to choosing electives in year 4. Be clear about what you want to accomplish from each elective so read the goals and objectives carefully.



### Suggested interview months

The ERAS interview season typically runs from October to February so you can spread your interviews out over this time frame. If you plan to interview during December remember that is during the holiday season and many faculty will take vacation during that time. I recommend taking time off during your heavy interviewing months. If you can't take time off during this time then make sure that you are on an elective that will accommodate your interviewing schedule. In other words, this is not the time to do an ICU elective or complete your Emergency Medicine course.



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

The earlier you complete Step 2CK and CS the better. WSUSOM has set deadlines for you to complete these. Please follow their recommendations. Your Step 2 scores should be available by October so that programs can view them as they decide who to invite for interviews. It has been my experience that students who do not get very much interviews are the students who haven't taken Step 2 or who did not pass Step 2. Programs like to see an improvement in your Step 2 score above your Step 1 score as this is the typical trend. Passing both Step 1 and Step 2 on your first attempt and having those scores available by October is the best way to improve your ranking.

WARRIOR STRONG

# Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



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



## Letters of Recommendation

Please follow WSUSOM and ERAS recommendations for letters of recommendations (LOR). Having said that, you will want at least one LOR from a Family Medicine physician that you worked with directly. LOR should be written and submitted to ERAS by September 15.

When you ask a faculty to write a LOR you should ask if they can write a "STRONG" LOR for you. Typically you won't be able to see the LOR so you want to be sure that it will be a strong LOR. All LORs should be completed by October so start requesting them early.

Follow up with your LOR writers regularly by sending a gentle reminder/email every 2-3 weeks. Remember, your LOR writers have other commitments so be patient but persistent. I always tell students that I'd rather see 3 strong LORs from 3 different specialties than 3 mediocre LORs from the same specialty.

Finally, our Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at WSUSOM will write a LOR (if requested) for those students applying ONLY to Family Medicine. If you request a Department of Family Medicine LOR it is highly recommended that you also request LORs from faculty that you have worked with directly.



## Recommended Documents and Links to Specialty-Specific Resources

"Strolling Through the Match" available on the [AAFP \(American Academy of Family Physicians\) website](http://www.aafp.org) and click on the student link. Membership is FREE for students! Lots of great information about residency programs and advice for getting through the MATCH! [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)



## Additional Recommendations

We sponsor students who want to attend the [Annual National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City](#) from July 28-30, 2022. It's a great way to network with residency programs and meet other students who are pursuing careers in Family Medicine.



WARRIOR STRONG