

Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



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

Radiation Oncology



Priority scheduling

Complete radiation oncology rotations early in your 4th year (September at the latest) to ensure that you have time for recommendation letters to be submitted with your residency application.



Recommended year 4 electives

Radiation Oncology Rotation: at least 2 rotations

Other recommended rotations:

- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- ENT
- Dermatology
- Pulmonary
- CT surgery
- Colorectal surgery
- Gynecologic oncology
- Radiology
- Breast surgery
- Pathology
- Hematology/oncology
- Orthopedic oncology
- Palliative care - inpatient/outpatient, hospice



Suggested interview months

November, December, January - usually not until after the ASTRO annual meeting.



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

Take Step 2 CK early and have it available for your application if you feel your Step 1 score is not competitive.

WARRIOR STRONG

Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



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



Letters of Recommendation

- 4 radiation oncology letters
- If radiation oncology residency is available at your institution, a letter from the program director and chair from your home program (2 from home program [chair and program director] and then one letter from every radiation oncology rotation)
- At least 1 other radiation oncology letter (ideally from another academic institution)
- 1 non radiology oncology letter: from IM, Sub-I attending or another general specialty



Recommended Documents and Links to Specialty-Specific Resources

- <https://www.astro.org/Affiliate/Medical-Students>
- MD Anderson pocket guide to radiation oncology
- Cleveland Clinic Handbook of Radiation Oncology



Additional Recommendations

Roll up your sleeves and dive in to your radiation oncology rotation, being ready to be a part of the team. See patients with different attendings to get a sense of the specialty's diversity.

If you are very interested in a certain program, do that rotation 2nd or 3rd amongst your radiology oncology rotations, so that you have some experience before you rotate at your preferred program.



WARRIOR STRONG