

# Class of 2024: Planning your 4th year



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

## Surgery



### Priority scheduling

It is important to have a defined surgery subinternship to get letters of recommendation. Plan to do this early in segment four—April, May, June, July or August. To make sure that surgery applicants have priority for these rotations, the department will send an early signup prior to general registration. You will need to certify that you will be applying to categorical surgery or integrated programs in plastic surgery, vascular surgery, or cardiothoracic surgery to be assigned to a surgical sub-internship in the months of April, May, June, July, or August.



### Recommended year 4 electives

1. **Surgical subI:** Surgical subs will be offered at DMC and Henry Ford Hospital. Students headed to general surgery and its subspecialties (plastics, thoracic, vascular) will be scheduled to do their Sub I early in the academic year to ensure getting letters of recommendation, while those planning careers in Orthopedics, Urology, ENT, neurosurgery, etc. have opted for later sub-internship (Jan to March) so that their early months can be used for electives in these specialties.
2. **Internal Medicine SubI;** This can be done early (to build knowledge for CK) or later in the spring (to prepare for internship). Since most of being a junior resident in surgery is medical care, IM skills are vital for success.
3. **Intensive care unit.** This can be either a surgical or medical ICU. This will help you become more familiar with ICU care, communicating in the ICU setting, and procedures.
4. **Cardiology.** We recommend a Cardiology inpatient floor or consult service to increase your skill set in reading EKGs, treating acute myocardial events, evaluating patients preoperatively from a cardiac standpoint.
5. **Anesthesiology.** You will not get this rotation during residency so depending on your M3 rotation, this rotation would be advised.
6. **Radiology.** This is a rotation that you may want to do later in the year or during a light interview month.
7. **Advanced surgery.** This will more completely prepare you for upcoming surgical residencies. This includes simulation lab, surgical technique, surgical anatomy, ultrasound and other non-patient care related opportunities. This will be offered Feb, March and April. General surgery students will take the elective in Feb while other specialties will take the course in March and April.



### Suggested interview months

November and December are heavy months, although there are still interviews in January.

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

Depending on the program, scores in the 240s are ideal, whereas lower scores are acceptable for some programs. Scores have to be available by ERAS opening as programs do put importance on them.



## ■ Letters of Recommendation

- 3 letters, two from surgeons are minimal. One could be from a specialty or internal medicine.
- A chair letter is advised as it is requested by many programs. This is easy to schedule an appointment with the chair for this.



## ■ Recommended Documents and Links to Specialty-Specific Resources

American College of Surgeons <https://www.facs.org/education/roles/med-students>



## ■ Additional Recommendations

In summary, plan your fourth-year schedule carefully to take advantage of the opportunities to prepare yourself for your career. Meet with your advisor, talk to surgeons, residents, other students when evaluating programs in your career choice.

All of this will prepare you to begin your surgical career. Feel free to contact anyone in the Department of Surgery for questions, advice or encouragement.



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