Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in Pursuing a Career in Family Medicine

Sub-Internship
Most students who go into family medicine complete their sub-internship in medicine or family medicine or pediatrics. You have the option of completing a four-week family medicine sub-internship on an inpatient service at Chelsea Community Hospital or on the University Family Medicine service at the University of Michigan Hospital. **You do not have to complete a sub-internship in family medicine in order to match into a competitive family medicine residency program.**

Basic Scheduling Principles for Family Medicine
1. Students are encouraged to schedule clerkships that will help with career decision making no later than Period 5, and preferably by Period 4, of the M-4 year. This is particularly important if students are trying to decide between family medicine and another specialty.
2. Students interested in family medicine are encouraged to take advantage of the M-4 year as their last chance to do special or unique things like electives in history of medicine, research, or even clerkships in disciplines or specialties that they are not likely to repeat as residents.
3. You should consider doing an elective in obstetrics, particularly if you did your obstetrics and gynecology clerkship in the first half of the M-3 year. Obstetrics is a skill that you will need to use in a family medicine residency regardless of whether you plan to include obstetrics in your ultimate practice plans.
4. You should try to take one or more clerkships that are consult services or based primarily in outpatient clinics that will help supplement and complement your M-3 experience. A list of possible clerkships that students and their advisers should consider in making a schedule is provided below.

Electives
The following groups of clerkships are recommended as a menu from which students should pick appropriate experiences.

1. Obstetrics/women's health/gynecology
2. Medicine consult services (GI, infectious disease, cardiology, pulmonary, etc.)
3. Musculoskeletal experiences (outpatient orthopedic surgery, sports medicine, PMR consult or outpatient PMR)
4. Pediatrics (pediatric ER or walk-in, general pediatrics, adolescent medicine)
5. Senses and Skin (ophthalmology, otolaryngology, dermatology)
6. Behavioral Science (psychiatry consult, substance abuse)
7. Radiology (community, general)
8. International/Medically Underserved Experiences (generally individually arranged by student)
9. Advanced/applied basic science (clinical anatomy and women’s health, clinical pathology, clinical anatomy, or anatomy of musculoskeletal system)
10. Anatomy, EM Procedures elective. **There is no specific advanced elective to prepare you for family medicine residency, but if you take this elective, we have arranged for you to use your self-directed time within the schedule to work on family medicine relevant activities with family medicine faculty, fellows, and residents. Contact Dr. Sheets for more information.**

Interviewing
Most Family Medicine programs interview from early October until mid-January, but there is considerable variability across programs. Most students should apply to between 15-20 programs, making sure they interview at 15 programs at the least.

Last Reviewed: December 2015