

Important Dates: See agenda packet

Residency Updates

- Take your ERAS/Graduation photos
- Dr. Woodruff's remaining Personal Statement workshop is on June 5, 5 pm, J-103
- Extra residency process books are in Rebecca's office

Pritzker Chief Updates

- If you are interested in helping with the Senior Skit, let us know!
- Making a guide to 4th year—keep an eye out for emails
- Pritzker Morning Report elective (2 sessions, each 1 week long)
 - MS4s bring in a case to discuss and work through together
 - We are asking Dr. Humphrey to come back for a week to lead it again
 - 50 credit hours
 - Will send out emails
- We are looking for ideas for graduation speakers and will be sending out an email soliciting ideas
- All-school BBQ on June 14 catered by Honky Tonk; the following weekend will be a class part at the Point, 6:30 pm

RESIDENCY APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Please review the slideshow for a complete review of the meeting; the following notes are meant to expand on certain slides.

- **Important things to start with**
 - Two organizations you have to interact with
 - ERAS (Electronic Residency Application System)
 - The NRMP (National Residency Matching Program)
 - Two dates to remember
 - September 1 (date we expect your application to be complete—2-weeks of padding)
 - September 15 (date that applications are transmitted to programs)
 - Two things to do
 - Pay attention to logistics that you *can* control
 - Understand that you do not have total control, though, and be flexible enough to deal with any unexpected issues
- **Slides 4-6:** Please review all timelines and deadlines
 - Note that you can certify your application as early as Sept. 6 and any time between Sept. 6-15 to avoid server traffic
- **Slide 8:** All necessary paperwork and references are posted on the Residency Resources page on our website
- **Slide 10:** Determine your priorities through researching programs online, and through talking to faculty, residents, career advisors, and recent alumni
- **Slide 11:** Apply broadly, *then* narrow down your list. Do not narrow it before you are offered interviews. Create groups of stretch programs, realistic programs, and safety programs—this is not the time to be picky.

- If a program you really want offers both categorical and advanced programs, apply to both—don't cut your options short. You can decide how to rank them later, once you interview.
- It is reasonable to keep your personal lives as priorities as you research residency programs. Don't feel like you have to prioritize reputation if personal or family priorities are also important.
- You define what "quality" is—a high-quality program for one student may be a low-quality one for another.
- **Slide 13:** For preliminary year advising, you can go to your career advisor or faculty in that specialty (internal medicine; for transitional program, we have a contact at NorthShore)
- **Slide 14:** You may also want to have a low-risk or "backup" specialty if you are applying in a very competitive specialty
- **Slide 17:** Your CV = Your ERAS Application
 - All material in your CV gets put into your ERAS application, which is why we review it for you
- **Slide 18:** Personal statements: tell the program about *you* and why *you like the discipline*; do not talk about the discipline itself
 - For instance, do not say, something like, "I like Internal Medicine because is a field that provides comprehensive care to patients over a long period of time..."
 - Instead, say, "I am interested in the field of Internal Medicine because when I did my clerkship, I met a patient who... and that experience taught me...which ended up being incredibly meaningful to me because..."
 - This shows more about you as a person and introduces you to the reader
 - The personal statement can also prepare you for the interview process by forcing you to think about your priorities and your motivations
- **Slide 19-26:** LORs
 - Requesting an LOR is both verbal and written: you ask them in person if they can write you a strong LOR, and if they say yes, you then email them a Letter Request Form, along with your CV and Personal Statement (it is OK if they are drafts). If they say no, that's OK—you'd rather not have their letter; it will not be very strong.
 - Faculty members expect to hear from students about writing LORs; ask and ask early, without being nervous
 - Ask face-to-face if possible! It allows you to demonstrate professionalism and respect, and to engage in a conversation about your goals.
 - Reminders are OK—once you do your initial ask, you can send a reminder two weeks before 9/1 to confirm the deadline and ask if they need more information
 - Only in certain circumstances should you ask for more letters than you might use. Our faculty are busy and if they take the time to write you a letter, it should be used in your application.
 - The faculty member uploads the LOR directly to ERAS
 - PSOM staff cannot see the LOR, but can see whether it has been uploaded
- **Slide 27:**
 - Aim for 3 clinical letters; you really only need 4 if you did a research year or a PhD program
 - For EM, you need 2 clinical letters plus the SLOE/SLOR, which counts as a Chair's letter
 - Letters from NorthShore faculty are fine

- If away rotation is early enough, you can have a letter from an away rotation (ask in your 2nd or 3rd week there)
- **Slide 28:** When you approach a faculty member to write a Chair's letter, tell them upfront you would like them to write the Chair's letter
- **Slide 30:**
 - 1) Only programs read your LORs; neither you nor Pritzker staff can read them
 - 2) Sending a draft of your CV and personal statement when you ask for an LOR is most helpful—faculty probably will not remember to start thinking about writing your LOR until they have those items in front of them. You can ask them if you can send them a reminder at some point later in the summer. Also, make sure to ask for the letter before July 15!
 - 3) If you do not hear back, work with your Career Advisor or Dr. Woodruff to prompt the letter authors. It is OK if your LORs come in after the 9/1 deadline by a week or two *as long as* your other letters are in and your application is 100% completed; then, work with your final letter-writer to remind them of the timeliness of their submission.
 - Other FAQ: How do I get LORs from my sub-I's/away rotations in July and August?
 - Halfway through the rotation, ask for feedback
 - If the feedback is strong, ask for an LOR
- **Slide 37:** Now is not the time to limit your list; you can always narrow your list of programs once you begin getting interviews. Apply broadly and err on the side of caution.
 - When we encourage you to add “safety” programs, it is not because we do not have faith in you. It is because we want to maximize everyone's odds of matching.
- **Slide 39:** Again, **focus on the things you can control**. There will be uncertainties in this process, so assemble your materials the best you can and know that you did your highest quality work.
 - Have fun! Enjoy visiting residency programs and new cities; set yourself up to enjoy an interesting and unique journey to find your next step.