



EFFECTIVE STUDENT ADVISING SERIES

Year by Year Path to Residency Application

Introduction

Mentoring medical students through the residency application process is one of the most rewarding aspects for a faculty advisor (FA). Often the FA will be most intensely advising the medical student during the senior-year application process and the interview season; however, it can be important to communicate with students throughout all four years of medical school.

Pre-Clerkship Students

The FA should plan to make themselves known and available beginning early in the first year of medical school. There are several activities that a FA should plan to attend to make their availability known or that they can facilitate or lead themselves.

Extracurricular Activities

The FA can attend ob-gyn interest group meetings, career nights and specialty talks. This is a good time to meet students with a possible interest in ob-gyn, discuss the specialty and residency training and to answer students' questions. Pre-clerkship students should be encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities related to women's health care. Students should seek out opportunities to apply for leadership positions in these groups and organizations.

Research

The FA can identify research projects and mentors for pre-clerkship students. The advisor can assist the student with clarifying the role on the research team, including opportunities for authorship, presentation and publication.

Organizational Membership

Often pre-clerkship students are unaware of the possibility of student memberships in national organizations. The FA can point the student in the direction of joining the following organizations which also contain resources for residency application: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Association, and American Association of Medical Colleges.

Clinical Shadowing

Early exposure to the clinical environment can assist students with their decision to enter into ob-gyn. The FA should help students obtain shadowing opportunities that cover the vast breadth of the specialty, including opportunities to shadow sub-specialists.

Networking

Departmental administrators and leadership become invaluable resources for the students as they go through the application process. The FA can introduce the student to these people and clarify their roles in the application process. Students who have the opportunity to attend national conferences can also be introduced by the FA to departmental and residency program leadership from other institutions.

Scholarship Opportunities

The FA can assist students in identifying scholarships. Often the students will require a letter of reference or recommendation. Scholarships to attend national meetings can allow the student to meet with departmental members of programs in which they are interested.

CLERKSHIP STUDENTS

During the clerkship years, the FA should plan to meet with students to begin to formalize the process toward residency application. Following the recommended timeline below can ensure that students are ready to submit their application in September of their senior year.

March/April

At this time, students will be completing their third year clinical clerkships. This is a good time to review clinical performance and identify any deficits that need to be addressed in their senior year. Students should solidify a career choice in ob-gyn and complete any formalized processes within the school in order to assign the FA to the student. The FA should meet with students to create a senior-year schedule with a focus on early home and away electives in ob-gyn (see **APGO Effective Student Advising Series: Advising 4th-Year Students for**



a Successful Ob-Gyn Match), obtaining letters of recommendation (see **APGO Effective Student Advising Series: Writing Residency Letters of Recommendation**) and taking both Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS) of the USMLE so that all of these documents will be ready by the ERAS application deadline.

May/June

At this time the student should have submitted a CV and draft personal statement to the FA. Advice, edits and comments can be made to both of these documents. The student MSPE will be composed at this time, and the FA can ensure that the student has had time to review and comment on this if their school allows. Students should also communicate with those who will write their letters of recommendation. MyERAS opens in early June and students can begin working on their applications.

POST-CLERKSHIP SENIOR STUDENTS

July/August

Students will be completing their senior-year electives and should be preparing to take the Step 2 of the USMLE. This is a good time for the FA to introduce the student to the ob-gyn department administration, particularly the Department Chair and the Residency Program Director. The FA can ensure that the student has a final draft of their personal statement, obtained letters of recommendations, finalized their application in ERAS and has developed a comprehensive list of residency programs for their application. The Match registration opens on September 15 and students should plan to submit their application prior to this date in order to avoid any technical issues with their application.

September/October

On October 1 the student MSPE and transcripts are uploaded to ERAS. Students will begin to receive and schedule interviews. The FA can assist the student with practice interviewing skills (see **APGO**

Effective Student Advising Series: Guide Your Students to a Great Interview for more information)

Some medical schools offer mock interviews for further practice. The FA can help the student with deciding on which interview offers to accept and how to plan an interview schedule around clinical and educational responsibilities. Also, students may not hear back from all of the programs that they are interested in. The FA can advise the student on proper communication with these programs and offer to contact programs in their professional network if they feel that this is appropriate.

November/December/January

As the interview season progresses, the FA can ensure that the student has enough interviews to create a sufficient rank list to obtain a successful match. The last day for students to apply to additional residency programs is November 30. As the student completes interviews, the FA can meet to debrief on programs to assist the student with creating a final rank list.

February/March

The end of February is the student's rank order list certification deadline. On the Monday prior to Match Day students who have not matched will be informed that they can enter the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) process. The FA may be asked to provide input regarding programs to enter the SOAP process with, or career planning outside of the SOAP process. Match Day is in the middle of March and is a time to celebrate with the student a successful match.

Conclusion

It is important for the FA to work with the student to help them engage in extracurricular activities, research, organizational memberships, clinical shadowing, networking and scholarship. Advising the student on a timeline and working with them to meet the important deadlines during the residency application process is essential for a successful Match.



The Effective Student Advising Series is a project of the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) Undergraduate Medical Education Committee (UMEC) 2018-2020:

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The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) promotes excellence in women's health care by providing optimal resources and support to educators who inspire, instruct, develop, and empower women's health care providers to improve the quality of life for all women.

This publication is part of the APGO Effective Student Advising Series. Advising medical students on a career in women's health can be one of the most fulfilling things that a medical educator does. Many physicians find themselves in the role of faculty advisor without any formal background or training in advising. The APGO Effective Student Advising Series pamphlets are intended to educate medical educators and learners about best practices for advising medical students on a career in women's health.



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