Timeline and Information for 2013-2014 M2 students in Urbana

**Second year** – Things to think about:
- M2 orientation will be Monday August 19, 2013
- Medicine and Society now begins in M2. The first session will be Wed Nov 20th
- Urbana White Coat Ceremony will be held the evening of Friday September 20, 2013 in the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. Final exams are usually over the first week of May
- Dean Hall and Dean Few will give a presentation to the M2 class in January on everything you ever wanted to know about clerkships
- Dean Hall and Dean Few will meet individually with every M2 student during the month of February to discuss career plans and the M3 and M4 years
- Six weeks is the most common length of study for USMLE Step 1
- We recommend sitting for USMLE Step 1 early enough so that you have a short break before clerkships start the first of July

**Third year** – Things to think about:
- The requirements for M3 are a total of 48 weeks. The M3 clerkships are scheduled with pediatrics, ob/gyn and surgery in one semester and psych, family, and internal medicine in the other semester. M3 clerkships begin late June or early July and finish mid-June the next year.
  - 6 weeks of Family Medicine
  - 6 weeks of Psychiatry
  - 12 weeks of Internal Medicine I
  - 8 weeks of Surgery
  - 8 weeks of Obstetrics and Gynecology
  - 8 weeks of Pediatrics
  - The M3 portion of Medicine and Society
- Start preparing for residency applications with activities such as:
  - Fall semester
    - Do research on specialties if you are still undecided; use “Careers in Medicine” to assess your interests and to obtain physician workforce data; review “Charting Outcomes in the Match” to assess your competitiveness for various programs
    - Request letters of recommendation from clinical faculty (and continue to do so until your application is submitted)
    - Update your resume or CV; doing a good job of this can take 10 hours
    - Begin research on away rotation possibilities (you will receive information on planning from the Student Affairs office); FREIDA is a good place to begin
  - Spring semester
• Dean Hall and Dean Few will give a presentation on planning M4 and the Match. Student Affairs will provide a *Guide to the Match* manual
• Start arranging away rotations for mid-June through early September as applications open (VSAS tokens are available in February)
• Begin personal statement
• Meet with Student Affairs early in the spring semester if considering early match specialties (urology, ophthalmology, plastic surgery independent track, military match)
• In April a panel of graduating students will present their match experience
• ERAS tokens will be distributed in June; begin work on your ERAS application
• Register with NRMP (note that ERAS and NRMP require separate registration and fees)

**Fourth year** — Things to think about:

- 32 weeks of credit
  - At least 12 more weeks of clinical
    - Internal medicine II (4 weeks)
    - Surgical subspecialty (4 weeks)
    - 4 weeks clinical electives
  - Although most of the Medicine and Society clerkship is already covered, students are registered for the full 4 weeks during spring of the M4 year
  - Additional 16 weeks of credit (clinical or other)
- Step 2 Clinical Knowledge – take after cores & in summer or early fall
- Step 2 Clinical Skills – schedule ASAP; take after cores & in summer or early fall
- Away rotations – ideally mid-June through early September; get LORs
- ERAS – first day to submit is Sept 1; deadline is Nov 30
- MSPE released October 1
- Interviews – from early November through early February; prepare for your interviews ahead of time by researching the institutions and thinking about questions
- Work on rank order list; deadline to submit is the third week of February
- Match Day – third Friday in March
- Convocation early May
- Residencies generally begin July 1, but orientation can start much earlier
Terminology

Different Types of Training Positions:

- **Categorical (C) positions**: positions in programs that begin in post-graduate year 1 (PGY-1) that provide the training required for board certification in a specialty.

- **Preliminary (P) positions**: one- or two-year positions beginning in PGY-1 that provide prerequisite training for advanced programs. Preliminary positions are generally in Internal Medicine, General Surgery or Transitional-year programs. Transitional year programs occur during the PGY-1 year and allow the resident to rotate through a number of specialties with a combination of required and elective rotations.

- **Advanced (A) positions**: positions in programs that begin in the PGY-2 year, after a year or more of prerequisite training.

- **Categorical (M) positions**: PGY-1 primary care positions in combined programs in internal medicine and pediatrics.

**ERAS** – electronic residency application service; an electronic service that transmits applications, letters of recommendation, MSPEs, medical school transcripts, USMLE transcripts and other supporting credentials from the medical student and the dean’s office to the program directors

**MSPE** – medical student performance evaluation (formerly called the Dean’s Letter); “the means by which medical schools provide an assessment of students’ academic performance and professional attributes in medical school to graduate medical education program directors as a component of the residency application process”; released October first

**NRMP** – national resident matching program; “places applicants for postgraduate medical training positions into residency programs at teaching hospitals throughout the United States”; note that ERAS and NRMP require separate registration and fees

**ROL** – rank order list

**SOAP** – supplemental offer and acceptance program; this is an electronic, organized system for unmatched applicants to obtain residency positions; replaces the “scramble”

**USMLE** – United States Medical Licensing Examination; (colloquially known as The Boards); “In the United States and its territories ("United States" or "US"), the individual medical licensing authorities ("state medical boards") of the various jurisdictions grant a license to practice medicine. Each medical licensing authority sets its own rules and regulations and requires passing an examination that demonstrates qualification for licensure. Results of the USMLE are reported to these authorities for use in granting the initial license to practice medicine. The USMLE provides them with a common evaluation system for applicants for medical licensure.”

**VSAS** – visiting student application service (used for scheduling most away clerkships)
Some online sites we think are most useful

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  https://www.aamc.org/
- There are many publications at https://members.aamc.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=PubHome, including Roadmap to Residency: From Application to the Match and Beyond and Charting Outcomes in the Match which gives typical USMLE Step 1 scores and match rates of recent graduating classes for most specialties, as well as lots of good info on matching strategies.
- There are many reports at https://www.aamc.org/data/
- The services tab, https://www.aamc.org/services/, includes Careers in Medicine. There is SO much information here, including information about exploring personal interests and values, as well as information on specialty training, match info and income. You may register using your username and password you established for your AMCAS. If you no longer have the AMCAS password or just don’t want to use your AMCAS id, let Jim Hall know and he can set up an account for you. At this point you might be especially interested in the following tabs:
  o Exploring options (includes information on researching specialties)
  o Specialty pages (information on almost 100 specialties and subspecialties, including
    ▪ details on residency requirements for each of area such as the criteria programs in that area are using to select for interviews and for ranking
    ▪ NRMP statistics for the match for the last three years
    ▪ Further information on that specialty or subspecialty including links to journals, associations, etc
  o Choices is the Careers in Medicine newsletter and provides pertinent information about specialty choice, getting into residency, and other important guidance related to medical student career planning.
- ERAS information can be found at https://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras/

American Medical Association (AMA)  http://www.ama-assn.org/
- FREIDA(Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database Access) is a fabulous way to search for residency programs or away rotations. You can search by specialty, location, or other criteria. The FREIDA database includes approximately 9,100 graduate medical education programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or approved by member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties. This program is great – use it!
- The Medical Students tab includes more information on choosing a medical specialty.
American Medical Student Association (AMSA) [http://amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage.aspx](http://amsa.org/AMSA/Homepage.aspx)
There is a Career Development section under the Education and Career Development tab.

Federation of State Medical Boards [http://www.fsmb.org/](http://www.fsmb.org/) is a good site for information on USMLE exams and on credentials verification (after you get the MD).

National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) [http://www.nbme.org/](http://www.nbme.org/) and United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) [http://www.usmle.org/](http://www.usmle.org/) The NBME develops and runs all USMLE exams. You can find information on the exams at both sites.

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) [http://www.nrmp.org/](http://www.nrmp.org/)
Obviously this site is all about the match! Some key reports are:
- Results and Data: Specialties Matching Service, 2013 Appointment Year
- Match Results by State, Specialty, and Applicant Type
- Results of the **NRMP Program Director Survey**; this includes information on what residency program directors view as most important when considering applicants to residency programs
- **Match Tools** [http://www.nrmp.org/communication.html](http://www.nrmp.org/communication.html)
  - Creating a Rank Order List
  - Couples in the Match
  - How the Algorithm Works
  - NRMP Policy
  - SOAP

Updated July 15, 2013