

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Emergency Medicine
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**Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in
Pursuing a Career in Emergency Medicine**

Emergency Medicine training is achieved in either a 3 or 4 year residency program. Training covers a wide variety of fields, including cardiology, critical care, trauma, pediatrics and orthopedics. In addition to intensive training in resuscitation skills and evaluation of the undifferentiated patient, students interested in a career in EM should give careful consideration to the demands of shift work and nontraditional working hours, including weekends and holidays.

Students should spend 1-2 months rotating in a busy ED, preferably one with an emergency medicine residency, working with board-certified emergency physicians. Emergency Medicine will have very different patient populations depending on whether one is practicing in an Urban, Suburban, or Academic environment. If a student is able to take more than one month of EM, they are encouraged to look for diversity of experiences in order to fully assess their fit with the specialty.

Subinternship:

Intensive Care Units, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Surgery are all valuable.

Research:

More emergency medicine residency programs are stressing research. Particularly if you are interested in academics, it is suggested that you gain research experience in a topic relevant to EM, such as injury prevention, health services, resuscitation, brain injury / stroke, acute coronary syndromes, airway management, or ultrasound. Research can focus on basic science, public health, or clinical outcomes aspects of a problem.

Electives:

The remainder of the senior year should be spent exploring diverse medical, surgical, and pediatric experiences. Those of high value to a future emergency physician include anesthesiology, ophthalmology, ENT, dermatology, radiology, psychiatry, orthopedics and pediatrics.

Students are encouraged to schedule clerkships that will help with career decision making no later than Period 4, and preferably by Period 3, of the M4 year. This is particularly important if students are trying to decide between emergency medicine and another specialty. This allows time to make contacts within your chosen fields and to request recommendation letters. This timing also allows your rotation grade from your field of interest to be on the transcript at the time of application to residency programs.

For more information, please contact our department or review the medical student section at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine's website – www.saem.org