

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
**Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery**  
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**Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in  
Pursuing a Career in Otolaryngology**

## **Subinternship:**

While no specific subinternship is preferred, some ICU experience is recommended either to satisfy the subinternship requirement or as a separate elective.

## **Basic Scheduling Principles for Otolaryngology:**

Most decisions regarding the application to Otolaryngology Residency programs must be made early in your Medical School experience. While the match system for Oto is now in March along with the other specialties, the Oto application, including letters of recommendation, must be completed by late summer of the M4 year. Many programs still interview in the late fall and early winter. Thus, the more typical options used by students are as follows:

1. Students should rotate on Otolaryngology early in their fourth year. They should also identify a faculty mentor who can help them navigate the application process and advise them on the quality of the various programs.
2. If there is a specific program you are interested in, an early rotation prior to October/November may help your chances in the match. Resist, however, the temptation of doing multiple away rotations as this will dilute your overall medical education and may ultimately limit your options in Otolaryngology.
3. An outstanding course for future Otolaryngologists, Neurosurgeons, Ophthalmologists and Radiologists is currently offered in January. It is entitled Applied Anatomy of the Head and Neck and offers extensive anatomic review of the entire head and neck region, skull base, orbits, and mediastinum.
4. Research experience is extremely helpful when applying for a residency spot in Oto. Research experience can be demonstrated in several ways:
  - A science in clinics research elective (see above).
  - Collaboration on a clinical research project – often done after patient care hours on other rotations.

Demonstration of an ongoing focus in research earlier in training, which may include undergraduate research, graduate-level research or other medical school experiences.

## **Electives:**

Take time to round out your medical education. You may want to consider a clinical field related to Otolaryngology such as neurosurgery, neurology, ophthalmology, or plastic surgery. Be sure to consider as much breadth as possible when looking at your medical education as a whole. Useful experience can be gained in anesthesiology, radiology, general medicine, or any rotation that has a high proportion of outpatient work. Most importantly, have fun and learn as much as possible. This is the best year of your formal education. Consider attending several of the Otolaryngology Medical Student Interest Group meetings (OMSIG) and please seek the guidance of as many house officers and faculty as possible. Several faculty members serve as career advisors and we are all willing to help you with your future career plans.