

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL
Department of Dermatology: Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in Pursuing a Career in Dermatology

Subinternship:

Before beginning Dermatology Residency, a one year internship is required in Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Emergency Medicine, or a Transitional Year Program. The subinternship is recommended to be in medicine; most students who go into dermatology complete their subinternship in medicine or complete a transitional year.

Basic Scheduling Principles for Dermatology:

Students are encouraged to schedule Dermatology clerkship early in the M4 year to solidify their career decision. This is particularly important for students who are interested in spending a month or two conducting dermatologic research.

Electives:

Students are encouraged to choose electives that will broaden their exposure to various specialties. Specialties that will be useful in dermatology are (in loose order of relevancy):

1. Rheumatology—many autoimmune diseases overlap
2. Allergy/Immunology—a major feature in many dermatologic conditions
3. Infectious Disease—significant overlap
4. Pathology—an important part of dermatology
5. Outpatient Plastic Surgery—dermatologists are involved in surgical aspects of skin
6. Research—research in any of these fields could be used to enhance your application

Rotations that have lesser, but still useful relationship to dermatology include:

7. Ophthalmology—overlap between some skin and eye conditions
8. Medical Genetics—many genetic syndromes include skin involvement
9. Oncology—broad specialty that has some interface with dermatology
10. Psychiatry—should not be ruled out entirely due to psychological components of dermatologic conditions, however not customarily viewed as a rotation in support of a dermatology application

Interviewing:

Most dermatology programs interview from early December until the end of January, but there is some variability. Most students apply to between 50 and 100 programs and do not limit their applications to specific areas of the country, as this is a very competitive specialty.