

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
**Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
**Office of Student Education, Tracy Groves, 615-6995**

**Guidelines for Senior Year for Students Interested in  
Pursuing a Career in Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Students should spend the fourth year of Medical School to develop a broad base of medical knowledge and extend one's fund of knowledge. This may be the last opportunity you have in your education to get experience in a variety of areas of medicine. If you do plan to go into the Obstetrics and Gynecology specialty, you will have your entire career to focus on gaining knowledge in this field. The fourth year should be spent broadening your base of general medical knowledge.

### **Sub-Internship:**

Most students who go into Obstetrics and Gynecology complete their Sub-Internship in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics (or a combination of the two, each one month). One of the months typically is a unit dedicated to gaining experience satisfying the ICU requirements; however, an elective Surgical Intensive Care Unit is also, another option.

In addition, the Obstetrics and Gynecology department is offering two Sub-Internships: One in High Risk Obstetrics and the other in Gynecologic Oncology. You may choose to satisfy one of the two month requirements with either of these two options.

### **Electives:**

- If undecided on a career path, an elective in Obstetrics and Gynecology (i.e. Primary Care or Maternal Fetal Medicine) early in the fourth year would be useful. Other options are available depending on student interest and prior experience.
  - Choose electives in fields other than Obstetrics and Gynecology that you are not likely to repeat as a resident. Recommended electives include the following:
    - Dermatology
    - Emergency Medicine
    - General Medicine with emphasis on outpatient management
    - Gerontology
    - Infectious Diseases with special emphasis on adult sexually transmitted diseases
    - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
    - Radiology – imaging of the abdomen and pelvis
    - Obstetric Anesthesia
    - Surgical Intensive Care Unit
    - Pharmacology or laboratory medicine

## **General Comments about Electives:**

- Try to take an elective that is either a consult service or based primarily in outpatient clinics.
- November and December are not good months for out-of-town electives. During these months many faculty members and residents may be on vacation and surgery schedules may be curtailed.
- Write early to the programs where you want to do electives. Some elective slots fill quickly and the program may not be able to accommodate you in the time frame you want. Keep your schedule flexible enough to allow rearrangement of your electives.
- Be realistic about where you want to do electives. If you rank in the middle of the class, do not spend a month at a program that only takes Alpha Omega Alpha graduates.
- You also may want to take an elective in Obstetrics and Gynecology at another institution (or at the UM if your M3 clerkship was at an off-site location) to get to know the faculty and residents prior to residency interviewing.
- When completing out-of-town rotations in other fields, remember to visit the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department and gather personal information by talking to faculty and residents. Request permission to attend teaching conferences so department members will recognize you and get to know you on a personal basis. Make an effort to do electives with faculty who are key people in their departments and who have input into their department's residency selection. If you are unable to do electives with key people, make an effort to meet them while you are there.
- Go out of your way to meet all of the faculty and residents. If you are doing an obstetrics elective, do not ignore the gynecologic physicians or generalists. Be sure to meet the Chair, Program Director, Residency Coordinator, and other key people in the department, if possible. Find out from your faculty if anyone knows any of the faculty there. Many faculty have contacts across the country.
- Gather information and be observant during your elective. Observe faculty, resident, and student interactions and the "scut work" and "dogging" demanded of interns and junior residents. Does everyone pitch in, or is the hard work delegated downward while the choice assignments remain at the top? Observe medical and support staff interactions. Look for anything that sets off "alarm bells" or makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Appear interested and excited about being there! Remember that the best letter of recommendation is the one you write yourself by your good performance and hard work.