Roadmap to Residency

Access AAMC FIRST Materials
Throughout medical school and residency, FIRST provides you with unbiased and reliable guidance about paying for medical school, managing money, and successfully repaying your student loans.

M1
Access AAMC Careers in Medicine® (CiM)
Begin exploring specialties through AAMC’s CiM Assessments.

Preclinical Opportunities and Observerships
Students can begin accessing these opportunities during M1 and M2.

M2
Attend the AAMC Careers in Medicine® Specialty Forum
Learn more about specialties as you begin to consider specialty options.

Take the USMLE® Step 1/COMLEX-USA® Level 1
Most students take these during the end of M2.

M3
Attend VSLO® Student Webinar
Learn about the away rotation process from a panel of Host institutions in the spring of M3.

Begin Collecting Letters of Recommendation (LoR) for the ERAS® Application
Contact your chosen LoR authors.

M4
Use Residency Explorer™ tool
To begin exploring the residency application process, you can use the free Residency Explorer™ tool to work out which programs you like best.

Use CiM’s Residency Preference Exercise
Determine your desired residency program attributes.

Begin Residency Interview Process
Residency interviews usually occur October through January of your fourth year, with December and January being the busiest interview months.

Match Week
Find out where you have matched in the Main Residency Match.

Apply for and Attend Away Rotations through the VSLO® Program
Medical and public health students, pursue short-term learning opportunities in locations away from your Home institution.

Apply for Residency Positions through the ERAS® Application Service
You may start applying to ACGME-accredited residency programs participating in ERAS® in September.

Take the USMLE® Step 2 CK/COMLEX-USA® Level 2 CE
Most students take these during M3 or M4.

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