

Dermatology Specialty Advising 3rd and 4th year Scheduling Recommendations

Dermatology Electives:

Most importantly for residency applications in dermatology, you should complete Clinical Dermatology MIDP 857A. If you are interested in pediatric dermatology, you should also complete PEDP 852A.

It is recommended that you take Clinical Dermatology MIDP 857A to learn about the specialty in the 3rd year and to prepare yourself to shine in your 4th year dermatology home and away electives to be completed in the first five blocks of 4th year. For your 3rd year dermatology elective, you may select a community practice or the Phoenix VA. For your 4th year dermatology elective(s), you should select an academic site, e.g. work with dermatologists with a university faculty appointment, a national reputation, and/or part of a residency program.

It is essential to complete dermatology electives and have letters of recommendation from dermatologists. It is recommended to gain 3-4 letters of recommendation from dermatologists or dermatopathologists with a university faculty appointment and/or national reputation. Ideally, these letters will speak to your clinical skills in dermatology. If you are an MD/PhD student, one of these letters will be from your PhD mentor. It is helpful to develop a relationship with letter of recommendation writers beyond the elective, e.g. involvement in research, advocacy, community service, case reports, presentations, etc.

Away Electives:

At least one away elective is highly recommended. An away elective is a great way for a program to get to know you and for you to make a good impression. You should consider an away elective at programs that you are considering applying to. Also, consider away electives at programs with a range of competitiveness. Please note that while some top dermatology programs may offer many students away electives, only a small proportion of rotating students are granted interviews. Please be aware that you are being interviewed at every moment during an away elective, and that programs only interview the top performers who do away electives at their site. Mayo Scottsdale, College of Medicine Tucson, and Honor Health are common sites for away electives.

Other Electives:

It is highly recommended to complete one elective in pathology during medical school, since dermatopathology training is part of dermatology residency training. Recommended sites are PTHP 850B and PEDP 853A, because the Phoenix VA and PCH have dermatopathologists who you can work with.

Electives that are highly relevant to dermatology and can be selected in your 3rd or 4th year based on your individual interests include:

- Pathology PTHP 850B or PEDP 853A (an adult or pediatric pathology elective is recommended for all dermatology applicants)
- Rheumatology MIDP 863A
- Clinical Genetics/Dysmorphology PEDP 862A
- Allergy and Immunology MIDP 855A
- Infectious Diseases MIDP 860A

- Wound Care/Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy SRGP 862A
- Plastic Surgery SRGP 858A
- Otorhinolaryngology SRGP 854A
- Pediatric Rheumatology PEDP 867A