

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 a dermatology elective and have a letter of recommendation from a dermatologist. It is recommended to gain 1-2 letter(s) of recommendation from dermatologist(s) with a university faculty appointment and/or national reputation. 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. An away elective will increase your chances for an interview and acceptance, as programs like to rank students who they know well and know are interested in their program. Three away electives is the maximum number of away electives. Some programs may frown on having too many dermatology electives, as this focus on dermatology takes away from being well-rounded and experiencing the breadth of training available in medical school.

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