

FAQs: (Anesthesiology)

Given Step 1 is now Pass/Fail, what advice would you give to a first-year medical student about what they can or should be doing early on to be competitive in your specialty?

Pass Step 1, obtain excellent grades in their coursework (special attention is paid to Surgery, IM, and Anesthesiology rotation grades), and research in the field is helpful but not mandatory.

Would you ever take someone with a Step 1 failure?

-It is possible, but not likely. A complete application with evidence of volunteer work, scholarly activity, and completion of a successful audition rotation, good grades in medical school, fantastic letters of recommendation, and a reasonable explanation of extenuating circumstances which lead to a poor test score can still overcome a single bad score.

What advice would you give about getting letters of recommendation in your specialty?

Would obtain at least 3 letters of recommendation, preferably at least one from an anesthesiologist.

What is the value of doing audition rotations in your specialty?

-It is becoming more valuable as many schools move to pass/fail grading and Step 1 becomes pass/fail. Audition rotations can either significantly help or in some cases hurt an applicant. Would consider a rotation at your home program before going to another program for an audition rotation so that you can shine during your audition rotation.

To what extent does research, publications, or presentations affect one's ability to match in your specialty?

-Depends on the program. Some programs weigh research heavily when evaluating a candidate's application for their program while others consider it a nice cherry on top, but not an absolute requirement.

Is a Step 2CK score needed before you will invite someone for an interview?

- Not officially required, but it would be extremely helpful to have on file to have the greatest chance of receiving an invitation to interview.

What does the perfect applicant look like in your specialty?

- It depends on the program, some programs value research ability more highly than others. However, an applicant whose application displays evidence of outstanding character, conscientiousness, willingness to be a team player, ability to excel in all types of clinical and testing scenarios, and possessing a servant's heart would be considered an ideal candidate for successful match into any Anesthesiology program in the country.

Does a student need to Honor in your specialty to match?

- No.

The students have significant elective time during their 3rd year for career exploration.

a. What electives would you recommend to a student who knows they are interested in your specialty?

- OR Anesthesiology, Critical Care, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Surgical Subspecialties

b. What electives would you recommend to a student who is undecided but considering your specialty?

- OR Anesthesiology, OB Anesthesiology, General Surgery and surgical subspecialties, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, PM&R, and Radiology. These specialties tend to have significant overlap with Anesthesiology either in the setting of care delivery (Operating Room), types of patients cared for, pace of daily work and complexity of patients cared for. Students who find aspects of each of these specialties appealing may find a career in Anesthesiology appealing as it can be a mix of various aspects of each of these specialties.

Is there anything else I haven't asked that you feel an applicant to your specialty ought to know?

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