

FAQs: (Anesthesia)

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?

Become engaged early, most importantly reach out to set up shadowing, develop relationships with anesthesiologists in your institution and gain insight into what daily life as an anesthesiologist is. Join interest groups, and the medical student component of the ASA. If time and opportunities allow consider research in anesthesia.

Would you ever take someone with a Step 1 failure?

Anesthesia is one of the most competitive specialties today. A Step 1 failure will be disqualifying for nearly all programs.

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

Quality letters are more important than multiple "in specialty" letters. A great letter requires an adequate exposure for assessment and comes from attendings that know what a good letter looks like.

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

Auditions rotations serve as extended interviews. They can give you great insight into the program that you are rotating at, and will give that program an opportunity to get to know you.

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

The more domains that you develop the better your application will be. The importance of research will be program specific, for some programs it will not be important at others lack of research experience will be disqualifying.

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

Yes

What does the perfect applicant look like in your specialty?

I'll tell you when I have found them.

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

Not necessarily, I am more concerned non clinical attributes that are correlated to success as a resident. Comments from rotations are more impactful than the grade.

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?

Other than anesthesia electives, critical care, cardiology, nephrology, and pulmonology would be of value.

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

Any opportunity to get into the OR, or one of the specialty areas of anesthesia practice: pain medicine, regional anesthesia, anesthesia critical care, or obstetric anesthesia. Anesthesia practice is quite varied, see all that you can see.

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

-