

Topics of Discussion

The ACOEP issued a survey to its student members to gain insight about the main concerns faced by a medical student today. A list of discussion topics has been developed based on the responses of the survey. This list of concerns can be used as a resource to guide communication between the Mentor and Student. Be prepared to discuss with your mentor or assist your student in the following subject areas.

Discussion Topics

Being a D.O. who practices Emergency Medicine

- How the holistic approach of A.T. Still relates to how DO's practice in medicine today?
- DO vs. MD residency: What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Becoming a Future Resident

- What does it take to be a good EM Residency candidate?
- How do you know that EM is right for you when you don't have the option to rotate in EM prior to fourth year?
- What is the Emergency Medicine Scope of Practice?
- How does the political climate affect my future in medicine? What's important? What will affect me? What should I worry about now, vs. worrying about later?

Board Preparation

- What is the board process like?
- When do I take boards?
- Where and when do I showcase?
- How do I prepare for Step I and II boards?
- Will Board scores play a major role in being selected for a residency?
- Is there a benefit to taking both the USMLE and COMLEX?

Rotation Advice

- What EM residency programs would be good to rotate at?
- What rotations other than Emergency medicine would be best for me to do to help prepare me for EM?
- Where do I set-up EM rotations?
- How do I audition rotations?
- How do I get the most out of rotations?

Residency Programs

- What are the main differences between Osteopathic Emergency Medicine Residency Training Programs and Allopathic Emergency Medicine Training Programs?
- How do I choose a residency program?

- Strategies to obtain a good residency: How do I get into an ideal residency? How to prepare for and apply to EM residencies?
- What are the Residency Programs looking for in a resident? What are Program Directors looking for?
- Should I do a traditional rotating internship if I do not match into a residency program?
- Every program says great things about it, and I don't have the savvy yet to read between the lines. I really don't want to wait until I'm a year into the program to wish I had found some things out sooner. What makes all of the programs different? And how might I find out which one is best for me?

Resume/Curriculum Vitae Assistance Resume building

- How do I make myself a more competitive applicant?
- Personal statement: what to write?
- What is the best way to obtain letters of recommendation? Who is the best person to write them for me?
- What are some tips and hints on how to shine during a residency interview?

Life outside the Practice of Emergency Medicine

Effective Studying

- What is the most efficient way to be effective in studying?
- How do I manage my time efficiently?
- What are the best materials and strategies for board exams?

Financial Obligation during and after school

- What are some loan repayment options?
- What are some tips on how to stay out of debt and still get the most out of medical school?

How to switch from student to professional

- Provide guidance and advice for successful practice of EM, an honest insight into both positive and negative aspects of the field.
- I have no experience being a working professional. How do I approach medicine as a "job" now, instead of as a "study of interest"? (i.e. how to stand my ground but not look bad? How to work well with administration?)

The future of Health Care

- Healthcare Reform: What do I need to know? How do I speak up and get involved?
- Insurance Changes: How will these changes impact my future/upcoming decisions about residency programs?
- Explain the "front-lines" of EM to decipher the upcoming changes in policy. How will those changes affect EM for the daily practitioner?