



Specialty Advising: Neurological Surgery

Overview: Neurosurgeons need to have a strong foundation in neurosciences and a variety of related surgical principles.

Students pursuing a career in neurosurgery should focus on electives and selectives that give the student broad exposure to neurological disorders, neurosurgical techniques, and perioperative patient management. Choosing electives/selectives that remedy any self-identified knowledge gaps is recommended. [OPDA Guide for Neurological Surgery.](#)

Suggested Selectives/Sub-Internships:

- SURG 4042- General Surgery (Ambulatory)
- NRSR 4010- Neurosurgery Elective (Inpatient)- MS3 or early MS4 year
- MEDI 4066- Medical ICU Sub-Internship- UH/VA (Inpatient)
- SURG 4047- Trauma (Ambulatory)

Suggested Electives for Neurosurgery:

- NRSR 4035- Neurocritical Care
- NRSR 7000- Off Campus Rotation in Neurosurgery
- CSAT 4017- Advanced Neuroanatomy
- SURG 4049- Surgical Internship Readiness

**[Curriculum Elective Requirements for UME](#)*

Away Rotations:

Purpose- evaluate program fit, broaden experience, obtain letters of recommendation

Following SNS guidelines:

- No more than two away rotations
- Typically completed during early MS4 year (Period 12-3)

USMLE Step 2:

Students should have completed Step 2 prior to application submission. Programs will want to review your score before offering interviews. Taking Step 2 early (before September 1st) will ensure a score is available when ERAS opens.

Additional Departmental Requirements/Highly Recommended Foundations:

The department of Neurosurgery recommends that students complete the following or have a strong foundation in these areas when applying to Neurosurgery.

- Neuroanatomy coursework or equivalent
- Trauma exposure (Trauma Surgery or ED Trauma)
- Basic knowledge of **Neuroradiology** (CT/MRI fundamentals) and **Neuropathology**
- Understanding surgical functionality through a 3rd-year surgical selective (if available)
- Early involvement in neurosurgery interest group and clinical research activities with publications

For further information visit: [Neurosurgery Department LSOM Page](#)

LSOM Specialty/Career Advisors:

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