Choosing a medical specialty is one of the most significant decisions that students make. With increasing competition for residency positions, it’s critical that students make decisions strategically. Students in the SOM receive free access to the AAMC Career in Medicine Program. Careers in Medicine (CiM) helps students assess individual interests, values, personality, and skills that contribute to the choice of a specialty that best fits. It also presents an opportunity to learn details about specialties such as salary and lifestyle, prerequisites and length of training, competitiveness data, types of patients and procedures, and other characteristics. All students are encouraged to actively participate in the program.

Summer Opportunities for Medical Students
The School of Medicine funds and/or coordinates a number of opportunities for UMMC students during the summer following the first year. A wide range of clinical, research, and public health experiences are available on a recurring basis. Additional opportunities for summer employment exist on a periodic basis based on funding, mentor and project availability. Questions can be directed to Dr. Jerry Clark in the Student Affairs Office at jclark@umc.edu

Medical Student Research Program
This program gives students exposure to the broad variety of investigation ongoing at the institution in order to stimulate interest in careers in academic medicine.

MSRP Summer Student Research Fellowship
Research is an important element of a well-rounded medical education and a wide range of experiences exist. These fellowships fund summer research opportunities.

Jackson Heart Study
If you are interested in clinical research in cardiovascular disease, particularly its impact in the African-American population, consider this opportunity.

Pediatrics
Medical students interested in participating in research and gaining exposure to clinical aspects of the practice of pediatric medicine may be interested in this opportunity.

Surgery
The Surgery Scholars Program allows students to initiate concentrated studies in specific areas of surgery. Both clinical and research experience can be acquired.

Career Mentors
In an effort to help students learn about the different career options available, School of Medicine clinical faculty have volunteered to serve as mentors to students wanting to explore different specialties. Students may access the list of volunteers on the Office of Medical Education’s website under “Career Advising System.”

Career Portfolio Checklist
Begin collecting the following for your career portfolio:
- Academic Accomplishments
- Employment History
- Volunteer Work History
- Leadership Roles
- Research Accomplishments
- Extra-Curricular Activities
Welcome to the University of Mississippi School of Medicine (SOM)! As your journey to become a physician continues, the Office of Medical Education wants to provide you with written information to help you determine your career path. We have a system of career advising to guide you, and all of the resources available are included in this brochure. We wish you success on your journey.

House Program
All students are now assigned a House and a clinical mentor to help navigate the first two years. The current houses are Turner, Shirley, Evers, Marston, Currier, Guyton, Pancratz, and Leathers. With these groups we hope to remind students of the ultimate goal of being a great clinician, even with study for biochemistry and microbiology, and to provide ready-made groups for students to identify with early in this educational process.

Career Counseling
The SOM Office of Medical Education offers both individual and group career counseling opportunities to medical students throughout the usual four years of study. These opportunities allow students to pursue individual academic interests and ensure that students are adequately prepared to enter the specialty of their choosing. The journey begins on day one and continues to Match Day.

Career Development Series
During each academic year, the SOM Office of Medical Education plans and coordinates a weekly career development series. The series, held on Thursdays during the noon hour, is focused on first- and second-year students but open to all students. Clinical, academic and research career opportunities are presented. Residents, fellows and faculty are available for questions from students. Topics include wellness and academic support as well as specialty specific presentations by key faculty such as program directors.

Residency Fair
The SOM Office of Medical Education, in collaboration with the Office for Graduate Medical Education, sponsors a fall residency fair which is open to all four classes of medical students. All residency programs have an exhibit. Those faculty, staff and residents involved in the residency programs are able to interact with students and students have the unique opportunity to learn more about specific programs on campus and corroborate specialty information from the career development series with local experts.

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Primary Care Day
Primary Care Day (PCD) is a day-long event hosted by the M2 Evers’ Society members and supported by the SOM. It highlights for first year medical students career opportunities in primary care and gives students exposure to those medical specialties. It also gives students the opportunity to interact with doctors who will play an integral role in their medical education during the third and fourth years. Following an introduction to each specialty by a faculty member, a series of simulated medical procedures are taught by faculty and residents from residency programs including emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, med/peds, obstetrics/gynecology and pediatrics. The day concludes with lunch, a dynamic speaker and door prizes.

MSPE and Match Preparation Meetings
At the end of the third year and beginning of the fourth year, the deans involved in preparation of the Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPE) meet with each student individually to discuss their residency application plans and the MSPE. The students’ interests and vocations, the strengths and weaknesses of their application, the competitiveness of their specialty choice, and other factors that might influence application and matching strategy are all discussed in these meetings. Students may schedule additional meetings as needed in order to feel comfortable with their specialty choice and individual career plan.

Class Meetings
The vice dean for medical education communicates with medical students at established class meetings and shares information related to curriculum content and career choices. During the first year, these topics are addressed with students during orientation and at the Dean’s breakfasts. Second-year students hear from the deans about clerkships and electives at their M2 class meeting in February. During the third year, at the M3 class meeting, medical students discuss with deans and others the components of the fourth year and requirements for graduation such as required courses, elective courses and opportunities for extramural blocks. The process of residency application and matching is also discussed. Fourth-year students have their final class meeting at the beginning of the spring semester to discuss graduation procedures and requirements.