

Medical University of South Carolina College of Medicine

MUSC's career advising program gained new prominence in the last ten years when they began emphasizing career planning early in medical school. Dr. Jerry Reves, Dean of the College of Medicine at MUSC, accurately stresses the importance of career advising: "When it comes down to it, there are really only two tasks you must accomplish while you are here in medical school, but neither of them is very easy. The first is to learn how to become a physician. The second is to choose the proper medical career for you. Our job is to help you successfully accomplish both of these tasks." Despite its status as the oldest medical school in the South, MUSC has become a fresh source of ideas in the medical community for their career planning program. In fact, in the past four years, career advising has now become an integrated part of the formal curriculum. Some of the course objectives of the Careers in Medicine Course include creating a personal profile, exposure to a variety of medical practice environments, and understanding the importance of inherent individual characteristics that should guide the selection of a medical specialty.

The current curricular structure models the formal [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) program. It extends throughout the four years and is a mandatory part of each student's educational experience. A new development in the school's curriculum is the opportunity for third-year medical students to do four three week selectives. The third year selectives offer students an early opportunity to explore various career options in more detail prior to the fourth year. This recent curricular addition has been a very popular change with the students. With the aim of improving the program even more in the upcoming years, one of the school's top priorities is faculty development for those who serve in an advisory capacity to students so that accurate information is relayed to the students, such as using the [NRMP Charting Outcomes In the Match](#) and MUSC's specific match data.

The general outline of the advising course at MUSC is listed below:

Year 1

Fall: Orientation to the program/Self Assessment using the Myers Briggs; AAMC web site exploration
Assignment of preclinical advisors (MEDCOM groups).

Spring: Specialty Seminars where various residency directors present information over lunch about their specialty focusing on primary disciplines.

Year 2

Fall: Career Exploration and/or Special Interest Group participation; Subspecialty Seminars where Residency Directors speak to students.

Spring: Two clinical visits in specialty of students' choice; Board introduction, review and examination for USMLE Step 1.

Year 3

Fall: Visits with clinical advisor (students chose discipline and/or advisor).

Spring: Visits with clinical advisor; introduction to the residency application process.

Year 4

Fall: Assistance with ERAS/NRMP (meetings, emails); interviewing workshop with MUSC Residency Program Directors; present helpful information to students (e.g. Match tips, loans for interviews, etc); preparation and sitting for USMLE Step 2.

Spring: Financial and Legal Issues During Residency seminar; assistance with the "Scramble" (if necessary); formal Match day celebration; "What Happens After I've Matched" seminar

Contact Info:

Chris Pelic, M.D.
Associate Dean for Students – College of Medicine
Medical University of South Carolina
843-792-5913
pelicc@musc.edu

Best thing about the program?

"Our advising curriculum, in part, is decided by a student committee." – Student Affairs Office