

Residency Application Overview

MS4 Class Meeting #1



Pritzker School
of Medicine

May 12, 2026



Opening Thoughts

- Welcome to M4s rejoining the class
- There are MANY people here to support you in this process.
- Your success is our success!

Career Advising Panel Discussion

- **Victoria Barbosa, MD – Lewis Society**
- **Wei Wei Lee, MD – Rowley Society**
- **Tipu Puri, MD – Lewis Society**
- **Brady Still, MD'17 – Rowley Society**

Career Advising Panel Discussion

- How is your role and/or perspective different as a Career Advisor, vs. a Specialty Advisor or other faculty in a specific specialty?
- In your experience, what are some of the big reasons students may struggle during the residency application process or even fail to match?

Pitfalls to Avoid in Residency Application

- Lack of organization
- Lack of engagement with career advising
- Inadequate transparency with specialty advisor
- Reluctance to hear feedback
- Inadequate diversification (program list and/or signals)
- Interview challenges (practice!)

Pritzker Chiefs Welcome

- New Pritzker Chiefs!
 - Stanton Greenstone
 - Rowan Hussein
 - Hillary Schiff

Applying to Residency: Summer into Fall

Agenda

- Timeline
- Deciding where to apply
- Components of your application
- Words of Wisdom

Timelines and Deadlines

Important Dates & Deadlines

- 6/4/2026: ERAS and ResidencyCAS (OB-GYN + EM) open for 2027 season
- 9/2/2026: **ERAS opening to certify and submit applications to residency programs**
- 9/2/2026: San Francisco Match (ophthalmology) application target deadline
- 9/15/2026: NRMP registration opens
- 9/11/2026: LORs submitted
- 9/17/2026: ResidencyCAS (OB-GYN + EM) application submission deadline
- 9/23/2026: **Residency Programs may begin application and MSPE review**
- Jan 2027: AUA (urology) rank list deadline (TBD date)
- Jan 2027: San Francisco Match (ophthalmology) rank list deadline
- 1/29/2027: NRMP applicant regular registration deadline*
- Jan. 2027: Ophthalmology match results released
- Feb. 2027: AUA (urology) match results released (date tbd; usually early in month)
- 3/3/2027: **NRMP rank order list certification deadline**
- 3/19/2027: **MATCH DAY**

Timeline: June - August

June

Register for ERAS (tokens emailed to you in early June)

Finalize CV (follow template) & send updates to Tyler

Ask for Letters of Recommendation

Have your Residency App/Graduation Photo taken

July – August

Deadline to take Step 2 (July 1)

Write your Personal Statement

Send a draft to your career and specialty advisors for review

Edit your residency application to near completion

MSPE review

This timeline is designed for students applying through the regular match.

Timeline: September

September	Continue to edit your residency application LORs uploaded (9/11)
September 2	Applicants may begin submitting applications to programs
September 16	Pritzker Internal Deadline for completing applications
September 15	NRMP Registration opens (You must register for <u>both</u> ERAS/ResidencyCAS/SF Match <u>and</u> the NRMP **Register for NRMP by December 1**)
September 23	ERAS Applications and MSPEs released to programs

Residency Process Book

- Advising calendar and deadlines
 - *Please check the website for up to date timelines*
- Career Advisor contact info
- Checklists
- Guidance on Signaling, Couples Match, etc.
- Sample CV
- Sample ERAS application
- Sample MSPE and MSPE appendices
- Sample personal statements (Updated!)
- Specialty-specific guidance (Updated yearly!)



Residency Resources

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Pritzker School of Medicine website. The navigation bar includes: About, Academics, Admissions, Community Engagement, Scholarly Opportunities, Resources (highlighted), and Student Life. The main content area has a dark red background with the following links:

- [Resources](#)
- [We're here to support you](#)
- [Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- [The Bowman Society](#)
- [Pathway Programs](#)
- [Career Advising](#)
- [Road to Residency](#)
- [Visiting Students](#)
- [Alumni Verification and Licensure](#)
- [Financial Aid for Continuing Students](#)
- [COVID-19 Student Resources](#)
- [Students with Disabilities](#)

Below the red section, there are several expandable items:

- AAMC Specialty Spotlight Webinars (+)
- Residency Resources
- Class of 2027 Calendar (+)
- Process and Data (+)
- Match Websites (+)
- Sample CV, MSPE, and LoR Request Information (+)

<https://pritzker.uchicago.edu/resources/road-residency>

Where to Apply

New MS4 Class Meeting

- **“Building Your Program List for Residency Application”**
- **Thursday, June 11, 5 p.m. (in person)**
- In this new addition to the MS4 Class Meeting lineup, we will go deep on the factors to consider, strategy for building a program list, available resources, and how to approach your program list in a way that works for your circumstances.

Resources for Researching Residencies

- Pritzker Faculty
- Current Residents
- Pritzker Alumni
- AMA FREIDA Online
- **AAMC Residency Explorer Tool**
 - This resource has a TON of information and data on programs (interview rates, USMLE data, etc.) from verified sources; updated info coming sometime in June
- OB/GYN: Alignment Check Index (ACI) tool from AMA

More to come on
June 11!

Choosing a Program

Considerations:

- Family
- Geography
- Your own qualifications and abilities
- Quality of the program
- Preliminary program requirements
- Breadth and depth of list

Your **Specialty** and **Career Advisors** can be instrumental in helping you create a list.

Do I need to apply for a prelim year?

Categorical

- Begins in PGY-1 and offers full residency training required for board certification in that specialty

Advanced

- Begins in PGY-2 and are in specialty programs that require completion of 1 year of preliminary training

Preliminary

- Begins in PGY-1 and offers 1 year of training prior to entry into advanced specialty

Transitional

- PGY-1 year that is similar to a “rotating” internship

Specialties that may require a preliminary year

- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology (offered jointly)
- PM&R
- Radiation-Oncology
- Radiology

Selecting Programs and Maximizing Your Odds

Think like an investor:

Create a **diverse** application portfolio to mitigate risk and maximize your ROL!

Goal Programs

- Your dream program!

Realistic Programs

- You are relatively sure you will get an interview at this program.

Low-Risk Programs or Specialties

- Maximize your odds of matching by applying to back-up programs.

Components of the Application

Application Components

Your responsibilities

1. ERAS, ResidencyCAS, or SF Match application
2. Personal Statement
3. Letters of Recommendation (LoRs)
4. Professional Photo
5. USMLE transmission (via FSMB)

Our responsibilities

6. MSPE Letter
7. Pritzker transcript

Changes to ERAS for 2026-2027

- **Specialty-specific questions** (anesthesiology, neurological surgery, plastic surgery)
- **Program signals:** “Why” statement in anesthesiology, plastic surgery, PM&R, and radiation oncology
- **“Scholarly Work”** section replacing Publications section

Guidelines for Your Personal Statement

Purpose

- Introduce yourself and your voice
- Express interest in a specialty

Length

- One page (on ERAS; varies from Word; ~600-650 words)
- 12-point font, Arial
- 1-inch margins
- Single-spaced

Things to Avoid

- Humor
- Obscure references
- Quotations
- Personal things you would not want to discuss in an interview

Review

- Review your Personal Statement with your Career and Specialty Advisors

PS Workshops:
Monday, May 18 (In person)
Tuesday, June 9 (Zoom)
(both workshops are the same)

Use of AI for your Personal Statement

- You should **NOT** use generative AI platforms to draft your personal statement. In fact, the ERAS application makes you certify that your PS is your own work.
- Per AAMC, use of AI is acceptable as a tool to brainstorm, proofread, or edit your personal statement
- Residency programs may ask you to affirm that your PS was not drafted with AI and some may use AI detection tools

Letters of Recommendation: How many letters do I need?

Categorical Programs: 3-4 total letters

- 3 clinical letters
- 1 research letter (if appropriate)

Note: You cannot submit more than 4 letters to a single program.

Advanced Programs: 6-7 total letters

- Prelim/Transitional Year: 3 clinical letters
- Advanced Program: 3 clinical letters
1 research letter (if appropriate)

Note: Letter writers *could* use the same letter for both applications, as long as they are generic in specialty; or they can submit two separate, specific letters, using unique letter request forms. **We recommend the latter.**

(ie. “I recommend John Doe for your residency program” instead of “I recommend John Doe for your Pediatric residency program”)

Letters of Recommendation: Do I need a Chair's Letter?

- Anesthesiology (for prelims)
- Medicine*
- Medicine-Pediatrics*
- Preliminary Medicine*
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Orthopaedic Surgery (some programs)
- Otolaryngology (Section Chief)
- Pediatrics (some programs)
- Plastic Surgery (Section Chief)
- Surgery
- Urology (Section Chief)

**Another faculty member writes the letter in conjunction with the Chair.*


Emergency Medicine, Neurosurgery, Ob/Gyn, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation utilize a “Standardized Letter of Evaluation” (SLOE), and **Orthopaedic Surgery** has an optional (but encouraged) standard letter. This year, **Urology, Dermatology, and Plastic Surgery** are piloting use of a SLOE through ERAS’ letter portal. Check with your program for their requirements + the department here for procedures.

If you are applying in **both Preliminary Medicine and Transitional Programs**, you could use the letters for both if they are generic in specialty.

Letters of Recommendation: Timeline

- Give letter-writers at least 4-6 weeks' notice
- Letters in by September 11 (i.e., ask before July 31!)
- Track which letters have arrived by using ERAS (or other app system)
 - Gently remind letter writers on Sept. 1 if a letter is not in
 - Assign letters to programs once they are submitted
- You do not have to wait for your letters to submit your ERAS application
- Send a friendly reminder email if it has been 6 weeks and your letter has not been uploaded


MyERAS Dashboard

✉ ?Tyler Lockman TL

Dashboard Application ▾ Documents ▾ Programs ▾ Message Center Thalamus Core ↗

Dashboard

ERAS 2025 Season - Residency ▾



Tyler Lockman
AAMC ID 14340378
tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

Application

Personal Information	Saved
Biographic Information	Saved
Education	Saved
Experience	Saved
Licenses & Certifications	Saved
Publications	Saved

[VIEW/PRINT APPLICATION](#)

[VIEW/PRINT CV](#)

Documents

Uploaded but Unassigned LoRs	0
Unassigned Personal Statements	1
MS Transcript	Not Uploaded
MSPE (Dean's Letter)	Not Uploaded
Photo	Uploaded

Programs

Saved Programs	6
Programs Applied to	0
Share Interview Information with Dean's office ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Share Program Signals with Dean's Office ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Resources

- Tools for Residency Applicants
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
- Learn about Fee Assistance Program
- MyERAS Terms and Conditions

ERAS Support 📞 +1 (202) 862-6264
Monday - Friday 8am - 6pm ET

[CONTACT ERAS](#)

Documents: LORs

Letters Of Recommendation ERAS 2024 Season - Residency

Tyler Lockman
AAMG ID 14340378
tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

Personal Statements
Letters of Recommendation
Additional Documents

In order for an LoR Author to upload a letter on your behalf, you MUST complete the following steps for **each** LoR that you intend to use during the application season.

1. Click *Add New* to enter and save LoR information.
2. Confirm the LoR entry by marking the associated checkbox and selecting *Only* checked in the Confirm drop down list.
Note: You may only edit and/or delete a LoR entry prior to confirming.
3. Select *Download Letter Request* or *Email Letter Request* in the associated Action column to provide your LoR Author with the form.

+ ADD NEW

Search by Name, Title/Dept., or Specialty CONFIRM

<input type="checkbox"/>	LoR Information	Specialty	Letter ID	Status	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Woodruff, MD - Professor of Medicine/Department of Medicine	Preliminary Programs	1LGCKZQEC	Confirmed for Upload - 06/14/2023	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	H. Barrett Fromme, MD - Professor of Pediatrics	Anesthesiology	1LGCKZRED	Confirmed for Upload - 06/27/2023	⋮

Documents: LORs (continued)

Add Letter of Recommendation

For guidance on correctly entering your LoR Author details, contact your LoR Author.

* Indicates required fields.

LoR Author Name:*

LoR Author Title/Department:*

Specialty to which this letter will be assigned:

Note: Specialty field will only be viewable to applicants, their Designated Dean's Office and the LoR Author - not programs.

Additional LoR Information*

This LoR Author is a Program Director in a current/previous residency or fellowship program. (Must be a Director or Resident of the program.)

This LoR Author is a Department Chair where I completed my clerkship training. Group departmental letters must be signed by the team composing the letter.

None of the above.

I waive my right to view my Letter of Recommendation:*

Yes No

CANCEL SAVE

Documents: LORs (continued)

AAMC MyERAS

Dashboard Application Documents Programs Message Center Interviews

Letters Of Recommendation ERAS 2024 Season - Residency

Tyler Lockman
AAMC ID 14340378
tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

Help

Personal Statements
Letters of Recommendation
Additional Documents

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+ ADD NEW

Search by Name, Title/Dept., or Specialty

CONFIRM (1)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LoR Information	Specialty	Letter ID	Status	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	James Woodruff, MD - Professor of Medicine/Department of Medicine	Preliminary Programs	12L6CKZQEC	Confirmed for Upload - 06/14/2023	
<input type="checkbox"/>	H. Barrett Fromme, MD - Professor of Pediatrics	Anesthesiology	12L6CKZRED	Confirmed for Upload - 06/27/2023	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anthony Fauci, MD - Professor of Medicine	Anesthesiology		Not Confirmed for Upload	

Documents: LORs (continued) | CONFIRM YOUR LOR

The screenshot displays the AAMC MyERAS interface. At the top, the user is identified as Tyler Lockman (AAMC ID 14340378). The main navigation includes Dashboard, Application, Documents, Programs, Message Center, and Interviews. The current page is titled 'Letters Of Recommendation' for the 'ERAS 2024 Season - Residency'.

A modal dialog box titled 'Confirm Letters of Recommendation' is open in the center. It contains the following text: 'Are you certain that you want to confirm the selected LoR Author(s) for upload? Once confirmed, a LoR Author entry cannot be deleted or otherwise modified.' Below this text is a field for 'MyERAS Password:*' and two buttons: 'CANCEL' and 'CONFIRM'. A 'CONFIRM (1)' button is also visible in the background interface.

The background interface shows a list of LORs with the following details:

Author	Specialty	Program	Status
James Woodruff, MD - Professor of Medicine/Department of Medicine	Preliminary Programs	12L6CKZQEC	Confirmed for Upload - 08/14/2023
H. Barrett Fromme, MD - Professor of Pediatrics	Anesthesiology	12L6CKZRED	Confirmed for Upload - 08/27/2023
Anthony Fauci, MD - Professor of Medicine	Anesthesiology		Not Confirmed for Upload

Documents: LORs (continued) | Email/Print Letter Request Form

AAMC MyERAS

Dashboard Application Documents Programs Message Center Interviews

Letters Of Recommendation ERAS 2024 Season - Residency

Tyler Lockman
AAMC ID 14340378
tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

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Letters of Recommendation
Additional Documents

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1. Click **Add New** to enter and save LoR information.
2. Confirm the LoR entry by marking the associated checkbox and selecting **Only checked** in the Confirm drop down list.
Note: You may only edit and/or delete a LoR entry prior to confirming.
3. Select **Download Letter Request** or **Email Letter Request** in the associated Action column to provide your LoR Author with the form.

+ ADD NEW

Search by Name, Title/Dept., or Specialty CONFIRM

<input type="checkbox"/>	LoR Information	Specialty	Letter ID	Status	Actions
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<input type="checkbox"/>	H. Barrett Fromme, MD - Professor of Pediatrics	Anesthesiology	12L6CKZRED	Confirmed for Upload - 06/27/2023	⋮
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anthony Fauci, MD - Professor of Medicine	Anesthesiology	12L6CKZSEE	Confirmed for Upload - 05/30/2024	⋮

Download Letter Request
Email Letter Request

Documents: LORs (continued) | Letter Request Form



ERAS Letter of Recommendation (LoR) Request

ERAS Application Season: 2025
ERAS Letter ID: 13PE4AW3F2

I am requesting that you submit my Letter of Recommendation (LoR) to the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), which transmits my LoR(s) to the residency programs to which I am applying.

ERAS Letter of Recommendation Portal (LoRP)

The Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) Letter of Recommendation Portal (LoRP) is a centralized service that allows LoR Authors to upload LoRs for applicants applying to ERAS residency programs.

ERAS has established a set of guidelines that should be reviewed prior to writing and uploading LoRs using the LoRP.

For more information about the LoRP guidelines, additional resources, and to access the LoRP login, please visit <https://www.aamc.org/services/eras/202520/portal.html>.

- Review the information below. If any information is inaccurate, contact the applicant directly so they can make corrections.
- Login to the ERAS LoRP to upload this letter using the unique ERAS Letter ID above.

Applicant Details

Name	Lockman, Tyler
AAMC ID	14340378
Preferred Phone Number	+1 (555) 369-5474
Preferred Email	tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

LoR Details

LoR Author Name	James Woodruff, MD
LoR Author Title/Department	Professor of Medicine/Department of Medicine
Specialty to which this letter will be assigned	Internal Medicine

Waive rights to view this letter

This applicant has indicated that they WAIVE their right to view this letter now and in the future under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The applicant has acknowledged that this letter is for the specific purpose of supporting my application for residency.

Letters of Recommendation: FAQ

1. Who reads my Letters of Recommendation?
2. Do you have tips for making sure my faculty members deliver their letters on time?
3. If my letter has not been received, and it is after the 4-6 week period, what do I do?

USMLE Transcript

- Requested by you through ERAS, SF Match, or ResidencyCAS
- **NEW for 2027 cycle**
 - **To request USMLE transcript, you will need to:**
 - Create an account with FSMB (Federation of State Medical Boards)
 - Request and pay for the transcripts through the FSMB portal (\$80)
 - Select the destination for the transcripts (ERAS, ResidencyCAS, SF Match)
 - Transcripts will still be attached to applications through platform
 - Assign transcripts to programs
- Typically transmitted within a day or so of your request, but **do not put this off**

You should all have a Step 2 score at the time of submission.

Additional Documents

Additional Documents ERAS 2024 Season - Residency

Tyler Lockman
AAMC ID 14340378
tlockman@bsd.uchicago.edu

Help

Personal Statements

Letters of Recommendation

Additional Documents

Document	Status	Actions
USMLE Transcript <small>There is a one-time processing fee of \$80 for USMLE transcripts.</small>	Not Authorized	• Student
Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)	Not Uploaded	• PSOM (by 9/22)
Medical School Transcript	Not Uploaded	• PSOM Required
Photo	Uploaded - 05/01/2024	• Student

Program Signals

- Sent through ERAS, ResidencyCAS, or SF Match application
- Allow you to express specific, genuine interest to a limited number of programs
- Three approaches: Small signal (5-15 signals), Big signal (20+), and Tiered (Gold + Silver signals)
- Approach and allotted signals varies by specialty
- **Using these strategically and realistically is critically important**
- More at June 11 class meeting + separate Q&A + updated Pritzker Program Signal Guide to come in the summer

Away Rotations

If you are still having difficulty securing an away rotation, reach out to your career advisor or Dr. Woodruff.

Financial Aid – Residency Travel Expenses

- In-person interviews have increased for some specialties (mainly surgical subspecialties)
- In a survey 2025 cycle applicants (n=23), respondents had an average of 14 interviews, with just over **half** of those in-person
 - On average, these students spent ~\$2,700 on travel for interviews
 - Range: \$50 - \$6,950
 - Some programs may cover some costs or provide discounts
- If these costs present barriers to you, additional support is available. We don't want you to have to turn down interviews due to cost.

Important Staff

Strategy

Career Advisor
Specialty Advisor
Dr. Woodruff

Personal Statement

Career Advisor
Specialty Advisor

MSPE

Dr. Fromme

Couples' Matching

Career Advisor
Dr. Woodruff

CV/Application Logistics

Tyler Lockman

LOR Status

ERAS, SF Match, PSCA, ResidencyCAS

Words of Wisdom

Be a Smart Applicant!

- **Apply broadly** to give yourself the best possible odds
 - You can always narrow your list during interview season
- **Listen** to Career Advisor feedback about your strategy
- Realize that there is more than one program where you can be happy

Don't put all of your eggs in one basket...

Diversify your application portfolio to maximize your odds!

Make a Plan and Focus

- Focus on what you can do something about: your Personal Statement, letters, and interview preparation
- Get the pieces together and assemble them – **Stay organized**
- Refer to your Residency Process Book and **stay engaged with your Career Advisor**
- Know what job you are applying for
 - Program Directors want smart, dependable, functional team players who will take excellent care of their patients
- Take it one step at a time

You will get through it!

MS4 Class Meetings

June 11, 2026

#2: Building Your Program List for Residency Application

September 14, 2026

#3: Interviewing for Residency (PD Panel)

January 19, 2027

#4: Constructing your Rank List

