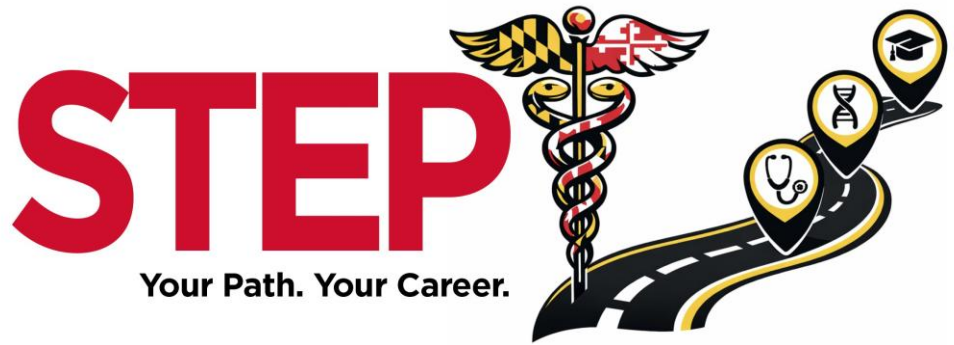




OCTOBER: TAKING A GAP YEAR

Office of Student Affairs
Studentaffairs@som.umaryland.edu

OSA STEP to Success

S. Self-Assessment
T. Target Specialty
E. Experience
P. Preparation & Planning

How Can OSA Help You?

ERAS Tokens
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Registration
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OSA Advisors/MSPE Questions
[OSA Career Advisors](#)

Kerri Thom, MD
John Allen, MD
Marissa Flaherty, MD
Katie Goetzinger, MD
Elizabeth Lamos, MD
Moran 'Roni' Levin, MD
Krista Toohan, MD
Gentry Wilkerson, MD

[Specialty Advisors](#)

Student Engagement/Student Life
Tonya Webb, PhD – Assistant Dean

As you narrow in on a specialty this fall/spring, some students find they want or need more time before advancing to residency – whether for personal or medical reasons, or to pursue research, an additional degree, or another enrichment opportunity. That's what a gap year (formally, a leave of absence) is for.

If you're considering a leave, gap, or break from the curriculum, your first step is to meet with a Dean in OSA. Together you'll talk through whether a leave is the right decision, how to make the most of the time away, and the academic, financial, and personal implications. Full details are on the [Leaves, Gaps, and Breaks](#) page of the Academic Handbook.

A few things to know up front: leave requests can be personal/medical (available any time) or enrichment-based (typically one academic year, considered after the clerkship phase). While on an official leave, you're not registered or billed tuition, but you also lose access to financial aid and student services, so it's worth meeting with Financial Services and the Registrar early. Review the [Taking a Gap Year](#) overview and the [LOA Checklist](#) before your meeting with OSA.

Missed the workshop? Check out the recording and additional resources below.

Considering Leave? Let your OSA Dean to optimize planning and support.

Leaves, Gaps, Breaks – Resources

SOM | [Academic Handbook](#) – Workshop Recording and Video | [LOA Checklist](#)
SOM | [Leave of Absence Policy](#)
UMB | [Office of the Registrar](#)
SOM | [Registrar](#)
SOM | [Financial Services](#)
SOM | [Office of Student Research](#)

Career Advising

TYPES OF LEAVE, AT A GLANCE

Personal/Medical Leave — available any time. May be personal, medical, or parental. Depending on timing and length, graduation may be delayed. Students considering parental leave should also review the Student Caregivers resources for additional support.

Enrichment Leave — for research, an additional degree, or other scholarly pursuits. Typically one academic year (July to July) and results in delayed graduation. Considered only after completion of the clerkship phase. If research is the goal, meet with the Office of Student Research early to discuss opportunities and funding.

- Meet with an OSA Dean — they'll walk you through the decision and next steps.
- Talk to Financial Services and the Registrar about residency status, tuition, aid, and loan implications before you go.
- Know what pauses during leave: registration, financial aid, health insurance, and campus services and facility access.

OSA Insider Podcasts

[Apple Podcasts](#)

E 72: Mission & Brand

E 24, 25: Applying to Residencies

E 95: A Brave Career Path

Wellness Resources



Read more → [U Matter](#)

- Wellness Committee
- House Advisory System
- Peer Support Network
- First Generation Taskforce
- Personal Growth Program
- The OSA Insider Podcast

UMB CAMPUS Resources

[Student Counseling Center](#)

[Student Health Center](#)

[URecFit & Wellness](#)

[Educational Support and Disability Services](#)

[Student Success, Leadership, and Engagement](#)

[Safe Walk/Safe Ride](#)

ACP Scheduling – Reminders

Student self-scheduling (Add/Drop period) is ongoing for AY 2026_27.

Scheduling resources can be found in the [Clinical Scheduling](#) OSA page.

- Clerkships cannot be dropped/changed without OSA approval
- [Changes to Ambulatory Rotations](#) require approval from Dr. Millstein
- Drops must be made at least 4 wks prior to Sub-I start (2 wks for electives)

We will kick off **Advanced Clinical Phase scheduling for AY 2027-28** on **December 8 at 1 pm** with a required session covering graduation requirements, scheduling, Step 2, and more. An optional session on extramural rotations (aways) will be held at 3 pm immediately following. ACP scheduling will be completed in phases in Spring 2027. OSA will host office hours in January for specialty/scheduling advising. And February POM sessions will include specialty-specific sessions with departmental faculty and near peers to provide an additional layer of support and advice before scheduling begins.

What's Ahead

- October 27 / POM – Developing a Narrative
- October 27 / POM – Mission and Brand
- October 27 / POM – CV Tips