

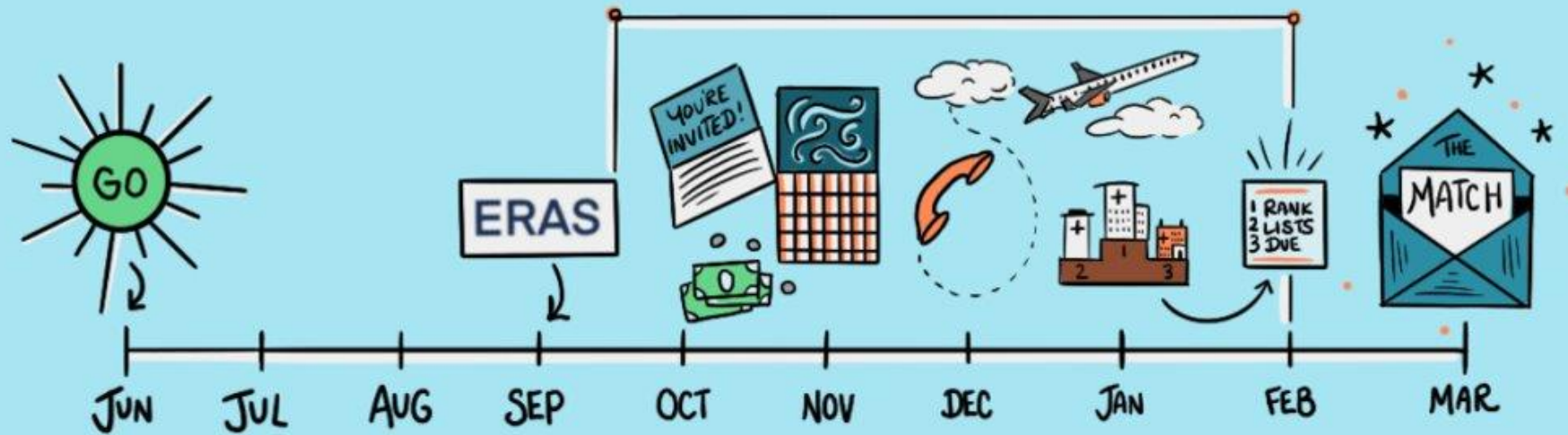
Ophthalmology

CLASS OF 2027

2026-2027 MATCH CYCLE

Residency Application Timeline

RESIDENCY APPLICATION TIMELINE:
WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO START APPLYING?



Original Slide Design by Dr. Kerri Thom

Upcoming workshops!

Workshop Links: [Advising Workshops](#)

Personal Statement Writing Workshops: Recording on Workshop Page

LIVE Workshop: 7/20 and 8/17 from 430-530pm in Reid Rooms

April-May: OSA Specialty-Specific Advising

June 2nd 400pm: Residency Application Workshop

June 3rd: Dr. Levin Hosting a Match Webinar (more info to come)

May-July: OSA 1:1 Advising Sessions

March 2027: SOAP Workshop (mandatory)

Graduation Requirements: Class of 2027

Graduation Requirements

Requirements must be completed ONE week prior to graduation

(For all medical students beginning with the Class of 2027)

CORE CLINICAL PHASE REQUIREMENTS:

- Pass all third-year clerkships (8), including shelf examinations
- Pass **TWO** sub-internships*
- Pass **SIX** electives*
 - No more than TWO Pre-clerkship elective equivalents may be counted toward the total elective count
 - No more than THREE extramural electives (i.e. clinical rotations not in our course catalog) may be counted toward the total elective count
- Pass **ONE** PoM4: Transition to Residency (4 weeks) or equivalent
- Complete an FRCT Scholarly Project
- Pass OSCE
- Take USMLE Step 2, Clinical Knowledge examination
- Complete an Exit Interview with Financial Aid

Graduation Requirements: Class of 2027

Graduation Requirements (link)

***Additional Requirements:** Note: these are NOT in addition to the above but can fulfill an elective or sub-internship requirement in the core clinical phase requirements.

Ambulatory Requirement[^]:

One (4-week) of the six above required electives or one (4-week) of the two above required sub-internships must be an Ambulatory rotation (as designated via the “Ambulatory” tab in the course catalog). In addition to the expectations of the elective, students will have designated curricular material to satisfy the ambulatory requirement; this requirement cannot be fulfilled with a pre-clerkship elective.

Holistic Care of the Patient Requirement[^]:

One (4-week) of the six above required electives or one (4-week) sub-internship must satisfy the Holistic Care of the Patient requirement (as designated via the “Holistic Care” tag in the course catalog). This requirement cannot be fulfilled with a pre-clerkship elective.

[^]The same rotation cannot fulfill the Ambulatory, the Sub-Internship, and Holistic Care of the Patient requirement.

★ At least one clinical rotation (as designated via the “Clinical” tab in the course catalog) must be completed in the same semester as graduation.

Important Reminders

- **Confirm name/pronunciation in MedScope** as you wish for graduation/diploma
- Update your **Preferred Pronouns** in MedScope for the MSPE (if not indicated will default to he/him, she/her)
- Update your **contact information**
- Pay it forward, sign up to be an **Alumni Mentor** (Career Tab, MedScope)
- Use the **MedScope Interview Tracker** to ensure optimal advising!
- Consider your brand and ensure social media profiles are professional/clean
- Meet with Financial Aid (Sophia Cascio)
- Complete **Graduation Questionnaire** (online through AAMC) – available Jan – May

Career Tab (Please complete)

- Student
- Home
- Bio
- History
- Status
- Registration
- Grades
- Assignments
- Research
- Activities
- Graduation
- Career**
- Advisors

Residency Planning Get Worksheet

Please provide as much information as you can in advance of your OSA residency application planning and advising meeting.

Note: Default (she/her, he/him) pronouns will be used in your MSPE unless alternatives are specified on the Home tab of your Portfolio.

Couples Match	<input type="text"/>
	<small>Provide the name of the other person, their specialty, and their location if not at UMSOM.</small>
PGY1 Year	<input type="text" value="n/a"/> <small>If required.</small>
Geographic Constraints	<input type="text" value="None."/>
Specific Programs Considered	<input type="text" value="Tufts University
University of Texas at Austin Dell SOM
Vanderbilt University"/>
Contingency Plans	<input type="text" value="Take a research year/clinical year.
Can consider alternative specialties (potentially Family medicine?)"/>
Other Constraints or Preferences	<input type="text"/>

Residency Application Manual: Your New Best Friend

[Residency Application Manual](#)

1:1 OSA Residency Advising Meeting Prep

1. You may review MSPE details, including a sample MSPE, here: [MSPE](#)
2. Complete the **Career Tab** on MedScope to assist with MSPE data collection
3. Noteworthy Characteristics: characteristics from you for inclusion in the MSPE; if you wish to get started on these now you may review examples in Link #1 above.
4. Be prepared to **discuss any deviations from the traditional 4-year curriculum**
5. Be prepared to **discuss any hardships** (e.g. personal medical condition, bereavement, or other extenuating circumstance that may have had a negative effect on academic performance) if you wish to consider for inclusion in the MSPE

Note:

*AOA nominations will be noted in the MSPEs Noteworthy Characteristics and in the summary paragraph

*GHHS membership will be noted in the MSPEs Professional Performance section and in the summary paragraph

1:1 OSA Residency Advising Meeting Prep

The below are NOT required but may be helpful

[] Meet with Departmental Mentors

[] Think about programs of interest or geographical areas of interest

[] Create a CV Draft ([Curriculum Vitae](#)); **we will not go through this at the meeting but can answer specific questions**

[] Create a Personal Statement draft; **we are happy to review outside the meeting timeframe**

Application and Match

- Central Application Service (CAS) is the application.
- SF Match is the match.
- SF Match and Central Application Service are integrated (YAY!)
- You may need to also fill out ERAS and register for NRMP (depending on the program's preliminary year)

Application timeline:

- **SF MATCH Timeline: See in 2 slides :) - 2026-2027 Pending TBD**
 - [Timetable - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match - Residency and Fellowship Matching Services](#)

- **Match Week Schedule: TBD**

*Note: Ophthalmology participates in the San Francisco (SF) Match and is an 'early' match.

*While it is an "early" match, the upfront timeline is not too different from other specialties. The interview season and match turnaround is the faster/early part.

*Students who are applying for Ophthalmology only, do not need to apply to ERAS

*EXCEPT, students who are dual applying will need to apply through ERAS

SF Match-Ophthalmology

- For Ophthalmology, you will fill out your application on the SF Match website and will match through the SF Match (submit rank lists).
- Most ophthalmology programs at this point are integrated/joint programs, meaning when you match with the SF Match, you will have a PGY1 position through the NRMP match process. This means that you MAY need to register for the NRMP Match.

SF Match/Application TIMELINE (Still pending 26-27)

Date	2025-2026 Season (waiting for 2026-2027)
~July 1 st	SF Portal Opens
~ September 2 nd	Applications Released to Programs
~September 25th	MSPE Letters Released to Programs
~July 1 to End January	Programs open house organization
Mid October	First Day Interviews can begin 25-26 was virtual
End of October	Applicants Open Hour Tour Sign-Up Period
End of December	Last Day of Interviews
Early January	Program Rank List DUE
Early January	Live Open House Tours Start (optional) - In person
Late January	Last Day for Live Open House Tours (optional) -in person
Late January	Applicant Rank Lists DUE
Early February	MATCH Results Released
MATCH DAY	3rd week March

ERAS/NRMP TIMELINE

Date	Activity
June 4, 2025	ERAS 2026 season begins at 9 a.m. ET.
Sept. 3, 2025	Residency applicants may begin submitting MyERAS applications to programs at 9 a.m. ET.
Sept. 24, 2025	Residency programs may begin reviewing MyERAS applications and MSPEs in the PDWS at 9 a.m. ET.
End of January 2026	Register for Match and SOAP
Early February 2026	RANK OPENS
First week of March 2026	RANK Lists Certified
2 nd or 3 rd week of March 2026	SOAP and MATCH

***Note**, this is 25-26 Cycle dates. We are waiting for the 26-27 Cycle dates to be released. Please reference [What You Need to Know About the 2027 ERAS® Application Season | Students & Residents](#) the most updated schedules.

Ophthalmology Application

Department	Ophthalmology
Contacts (R = Required to Meet)	
Chair	Lisa S. Schocket, MD
Program Director	Sarah Ullah, MD
MSIV Advising	Moran Levin, MD (R)
Competitive Applicant	
Step 2 (goal)	258 (UMSOM Average 255)
AOA/GHHS	Helpful
Research	Necessary/Consider Gap Research Year
Applications	
Application System	SF Match/CAS Application
Program Signaling	10 Signals 2025-2026 (Anticipated the same for 2026-2027)
Acuity Insights	N/A
Preliminary/Transitional Year	Integrated or Joint
Match System	SF Match
Away Rotations	
Expectations	Expected
Ideal Number	2 max
Letters of Reference	
Total Number	3 letters
Chair Letter	Required (Most Programs)
Ideal Make Up	Home Ophthalmology (1-2), Other (medicine)
Contingency	If dual applying, secure letters for that specialty
Mock Interview Program	
	OSA Advisor coordinates with Dr. Levin for those who are interested
Contingency	
	Strongly Consider Research Year between M3/4
	ALL Students MUST Have Contingency
	Consider Dual Application

A Note on External Rotations (“Aways”)

Ophthalmology DOES require Away rotations (Ideally 2 away rotations)

YOU MUST ADD THIS COURSE AT SOM!!!

Required forms are found on the Student Scheduling Page

- Forms should be completed/signed by Departments
- Submitted to Add/Drop

Signaling

- ❑ **Ophthalmology had 10 “tokens” or “signals” 2025-2026 year. Anticipate the same for 2026-2027 year.**
- ❑ **Waiting on AUPO for announcements**
 - ❑ AUPO champions an inclusive academic ophthalmology community to promote and advocate for excellence and equity in ophthalmic education, professional development, research, and clinical care. | Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology

This is 2025 Data. We are still waiting for 2026 data to be released from SF.

	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2022	Feb 2023	Feb 2024	Feb 2025
Matched Percentage:							
Overall	75%	78%	74%	68%	69%	66%	65%
<i>US Seniors</i>	93%	90%	91%	92%	90%	89%	90%
<i>US Grads</i>	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%	6%	8%
<i>IMGs</i>	3%	6%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%

A Program Data			
	Integrated	Joint	Total
Number of Participating Programs	56	67	123
Total Number of Positions Offered	239	286	525
Total Number of Positions Filled	239	285	524
Total Number of Unfilled Positions	0	1	1

M Number of Applications and Interviews per Applicant		
	Matched	Unmatched
Mean (Range) of Applications	82 (10-124)	84 (1-124)
Mean (Range) of Interviews	10 (1-32)	3 (1-16)

Goals

- Apply to a range of programs in terms of competitiveness.
- Students should rank all programs they interviewed at unless they would rather go unmatched
- If you have a significant geographic constraint, consider a pre-liminary program back up or a dual-application.
- INTERVIEW CAP likely 15

ALL STUDENTS APPLYING TO OPHTHO SHOULD HAVE A CONTINGENCY PLAN.

For students applying to specialties a little beyond their academic reach or for any student applying to a competitive subspecialty:

- Consider applying to a second, less competitive specialty **concurrently**.
- Consider applying to a preliminary program, such as internal medicine or surgery **concurrently**.

If you would rather improve your credentials and apply again if unmatched, be clear on what you can do to improve your credentials.

- If research experience is important, consider applying **concurrently** to research programs so that you have that as an option if you do not match.
- If additional clinical work is important, consider applying to a preliminary program
- Consider earning an additional degree (MPH, JD, MBA) to either improve your credentials or as an alternate career option.
- Understand that it takes **2 years** to really improve your application...1 year to do something and then the application year.

Ophthalmology UMSOM Data

UMSoM: Ophthalmology	2023	2024	2025	2026
Avg Applications	76.4	84	83	86
Avg Interview Offers	17.2	18.5	10	10.5
% Invites/Applications	25.00%	22.02%	13%	12%
No. Signals	2023	2024	2025 (7 signals)	2026 (10 signals)
Percent of Interview Offers from Signaled Programs	NA	NA	49%	57%
Percent of Interview Offers from Non-Signaled Programs	NA	NA	50%	43%
No. Additional Interview Offers from Non-Signaled Programs	NA	NA	0 to 10	3 to 6
Stats				
Average Step 2 Per year	257	255.0	254	257
Step 2 Average 2022-2026	255			
National Step 2 Average 2025	258			

Ophthalmology Data (UMSOM Continued)

Ophthalmology 2023-2026			
	No. Students	Avg. No. Interviews	% Match
All	16	17	88% (14 of 16)
AOA	7	17	100% (7 of 7)
Non-AOA	9	13	77% (7 of 9)
Step 2 >= 240	15	14	93% (14 of 15)
Step 2 < 240	1	4	0% (0 of 1)
Step 2 >= 245	15	15	93% (14 of 15)
Step 2 < 245	1	4	0% (0 of 1)
GHHS	4	17	100% (4 of 4)
Non-GHHS	12	13	80% (10 of 12)
Clinical Designation			
Exceptional	2	18	100% (2 of 2)
Outstanding	7	16	100% (7 of 7)
Excellent	6	11	83% (5 of 6)
Very Well	1	4	0% (0 of 1)

Ophthalmology Data (UMSOM Continued)

No. Applications with Clerkship Standing

Clerkship Standing	Interview Hit Rate (%)	No. Apps Suggested	No. App Range
Exceptional	25	72	65-75
Outstanding	20	81	75-85
Excellent	14	83	85-95
Very Well	4	99	95+

Ophthalmology Data (UMSOM continued)

Away versus Home Matches

Year	No. Matched Applicants	Avg. No. Aways	Matched Home	Matched Away	Matched Home/Away
2023-2026	14 of 16	2	4 of 14 (28%)	6 of 14 (43%)	10 of 14 (71%)

Which Programs to apply to:

FREIDA is a really great tool that can help you look at accredited programs by specialty in different regions around the country. <https://freida.ama-assn.org/Freida/#/>

AAMC Residency Explorer is a useful tool in assessing your competitiveness at particular programs:
<https://www.residencyexplorer.org/Account/Login>

MedScope Data *We will review together – this data allows you to see where you stand as a student at UMSOM

Departmental Advisors (as well as faculty advisors, and senior students) are another key source of program information

Checklist to be completed **prior** to your meeting

- Complete the Career Tab on MedScope
- Review your schedule/graduation requirements
- Review the [Residency Application Manual](#)

The below are NOT required but may be helpful

- Meet with Departmental Mentors
- Create a preliminary list of programs of interest (**print/PDF Residency Explorer output**)
- Create a CV Draft ([Curriculum Vitae](#)); we will not go through this at the meeting but can answer specific questions
- Create a Personal Statement draft; we are happy to review outside the meeting timeframe

What you can be doing now ...

- Scheduling Tweaks, Away Rotations, Graduation Requirements
- Consider Narrative/Brand
- Work on your CV
- Create a draft of your Personal Statement Meet with Mentors (OSA, Department, Peers) [Advising Workshops](#)- look at Personal Statement Recording
- Create a preliminary list of programs
- Complete the Career Tab on MedScope



Student Perspectives



Any Questions?
