

**Post Match Reporting
2020-2022 Match Cohort Data**

**Specialty: Dermatology
Number of Survey Respondents = 11
2020(18%), 2021(36%), 2022(45%)**

<u>Match year</u>	<u>Match cohort</u>	<u>% total cohort</u>
2020	2	1.3%
2021	6	3.6%
2022	6	4.2%

	<u>Mean</u>	<u>St Dev</u>
Step 1	242.79	17.3

Post Match Survey Responses

Did you review the list of programs to which you applied with a Specialty Advisor?

Yes 7
No 4

Before ranking programs, did you review your rank list with a Specialty Advisor?

Yes 7
No 4

If not a Specialty Advisor, with whom did you review your rank list?

Faculty 3
Family 2
Friends 1
Outside mentor(s) 1
Partner/Spouse 3
Residents/Fellows 1

Other: Please describe

near peers

Were you advised to do an away rotation by a specialty advisor?

Yes 2
No 7

Who was your most effective career advisor for your specialty? (number of multiple mentions)

Dr. Kanade Shinkai 7

I spoke with Kanade Shinkai, Ryan (Yoshi) Arakaki, and Mandy Twigg at UCSF as well as two social science dermatologist researchers outside of UCSF. I wouldn't say that any of them gave advice that altered my decisions about applying or ranking, although they were generally encouraging.

Research/Career Mentor (faculty in department of dermatology here at UCSF)

If you were to do anything differently in the residency application process, what would that be?

dual apply

Do an away rotation and apply to more programs. Send signals out of state. Consider dual-applying given the competitiveness.

Accept less of my prelim/TY programs. I interviewed at 12 but now wish I did 6-8.

Personalize each personal statement before submitting, since I ended up putting in that work to write letters of interest later on anyway

Trust your gut. Be more strategic if you feel you need to.

I wish I had reached out to potential mentors sooner after realizing my interest in the field. Strong mentorship and having an advocate in the application process are key, and there are many faculty at UCSF who are willing to play this role if they know you are interested!

I would have applied to fewer programs. I added a bunch of lower tier programs at the last minute because I was nervous about not matching, but they wouldn't have been a good fit for me, and they probably knew this as well because they didn't invite me to interview!

I would have started exploring specialities much earlier in medical school and thinking about the research possibilities in each speciality. I would have chosen a specialty much earlier in medical school and avoided the tremendous stress and expense of double applying.

Please provide any other information that might be helpful to UCSF students who will apply to your specialty choice in the future

there's very little rhyme or reason to this process so it's hard to predict how you will do or where. Do what you can but remember to find joy and to recognize not matching in dermatology is a possibility. plan accordingly whatever that means to you

Apply to as many programs as you can afford and seek advice from students who have recently gone through the application process. Believe in yourself and remain humble.

Make sure you communicate with your mentors prior to the application cycle regarding expectations. They can advise on how many programs to apply to and which programs fit your interests. They can also help once you start receiving interview invitations. If there is a particular program you wish to be at due to geographic reasons, partner/spouse, family, etc., consider asking your mentors how you may be able to emphasize your preference to the outside program.

Get connected with specialty advisors early on and get to know people in the department through research, shadowing, Grand Rounds, etc. Join the Dermatology Interest Group. Be able to tell a compelling story why you are applying for dermatology. Be able to discuss your contributions to diversity and how you wish to advance the specialty in the future.

Apply to as many programs as you can, and make sure you are willing to attend each of the programs you include. Make sure your mentors support you through the entire process and don't be afraid to reach out to them as much as you need. Also, be kind to yourself throughout the process. There is a lot of lack of transparency and it will feel hard at times.

Mentorship and advocacy from faculty here are key. This can develop during the early months of fourth year and definitely during the dermatology subI, so don't panic if you decide to pursue this field later in medical school. When thinking of how many programs to apply to, it can be overwhelming (there is definitely false pressure to apply to all existing programs). This is not only expensive but in my opinion not high-yield. Programs are also looking at you and trying to assess how likely it is you'd actually come if given an interview; there are a lot of programs that just didn't make sense for me (program focus, geography, etc.), so I really applied only to programs whose mission and location aligned with my professional and personal goals. The interview trail is hard. Waiting for invites (which come later than most of your peers in other specialties), doing the majority of interviews in January (when most peers finished in December), and the interview format (like MMIs, often involving meeting 10-40 faculty in a few hours with challenging behavioral questions) are all tough aspects. Plan to find ways to care for yourself through these times, reach out to peers and near-peers, and have faith it will work out. Your co-applicants may well be your best supports since they truly understand how stressful it is. UCSF students typically do really well in the match.

Tap into network of near peers for applying to Derm 2+2 tracks including current residents and former MSTP grads

- Get to know home faculty well (research volunteerism Grand Rounds etc.)- Work hard keep patient goals at the forefront of your mind and be kind to everyone

Speaking with students who are interested in derm, I think there's a tendency to be preoccupied with numbers (Step 1 and Step 2 scores, number of honors, number of publications, number of posters, number of extracurricular/volunteer experiences, AOA, etc.). While it's somewhat important to try to "check all the boxes", I believe it's much more important to build deep connections with 2-3 faculty, especially at a place like UCSF, where the dermatology department is very well-respected across the country. Being from UCSF and having a couple mentors who will be strong advocates for you and who will be able to convince people that you're someone who would contribute to the field basically trumps anything on the "checklist". Dermatology is a small world, and someone's word that you'll be an exceptional resident and dermatologist goes a long way. And if that someone is well-known or if whoever is reading your application knows that someone personally, then that alone

opens doors that merely having a high Step score or having all honors would not.

My experiences as an MD/PhD applying into dermatology are quite different than the experiences of my MD colleagues, so I would be reluctant to advise anyone who is not also an MD/PhD. I applied to relatively few programs with strengths in research and in geographic areas where my family could thrive, and I only ranked a few programs that I really liked and could see myself doing well in. As an MD/PhD it is certainly possible to have a quite different application and interview experience in a competitive field like dermatology than it would be for a medical student, including those that have done a year or more of research during a gap year.