

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

**Specialty: Surgery  
Number of Survey Respondents = 19  
2020(21%), 2021(42%), 2022(37%)**

<b>Match year</b>	<b>Match cohort</b>	<b>% total cohort</b>
2020	8	5.2%
2021	9	5.3%
2022	12	8.5%

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>St Dev</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	238.69	16.39

**Post Match Survey Responses**

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

Yes 15  
No 4

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

Yes 10  
No 9

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

Faculty	8
Family	3
No one	1
Outside mentor(s)	1
Partner/Spouse	3
Residents/Fellows	5
Specialty Advisor	1

**Other: Please describe**

Near peers and residents the most helpful of all

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

Yes 2  
No 13

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

Andre Campbell	10
Dr. Sanziana Roman	4
Kimberly Kirkwood	2

Research mentor	3
Tippi MacKenzie	
Doruk Ozgediz	
Dr. Matthew Lin	
Dr. Adnan Alseidi	
Letter writers	
Dr. William Hoffman	
Residents	

I particularly enjoyed speaking with Dr. Amar Nijagal and Dr. Nancy Ascher about my rank list and perceptions of the different programs I was considering.

Dr. Roman was a great resource. I also leaned heavily on Dr. Alseidi and Dr. Lin.

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

I would definitely do more away rotations. I would have done 2-3. I also would have reserved telling any program it was my first choice until I was personally ready to make that determination. I would have gotten to know faculty in the "brass" interview sooner, setting up meetings or something.

School should tell students more about the process earlier on in the year (ex. April)

Prepare more for post-interview communication

I chose to buck the trend and not let my #1 (or top 3-5) know where they were on my rank list. It did end up mattering, but the PD called me post-match and commented on how unsure they were about my preferences. So in retrospect, I would probably participate in that despite it probably not being an ideal practice overall

Make a more rigorous algorithm of what I wanted/did not want before going into interviews. This would've allowed me to take notes after interviews in a more systematic way which would've helped while making my rank list.

Given the virtual nature of interviews, I would recommend being proactive in reaching out to residents outside of the interview day to get a better sense of programs cultures. I'd also try paying little attention to post-interview communication as it is very variable, and I don't think it really means much unless very strong wording, and everyone in my class ended up matching in our top choices regardless of the communication.

I would've have sent letters of intent and asked letter writers to reach out earlier to other programs. Perhaps, I would've been more open with about my desire to not stay at UCSF for residency and be closer to family on the east coast.

Start talking to the Ms3 and MS4a class much earlier on about these issues! Often the official advising we got from the department came way too late (i.e. going over application basics the day ERAs was due)

I wish that we were given more step 1 study time to get a better score, which is very important for competitive surgical subspecialties.

I would send thank you emails the day after an interview and not wait to do them because the likelihood that they will get sent decreases the further out from the interview day you are and they are at least a nice gesture of gratitude if not slightly helpful for your application. I would also recommend taking advantage of talking to current residents, especially if they are UCSF alum as you can ask them the questions that you either forgot to ask on interview day or didn't want to ask in a large group setting.

I think it would have been useful to talk to more current residents from the different programs. For several of the interviews, I tried to have a phone call with a resident either before or after the interview--I think it would have been even better if I did this more!

Worry less. Focus on the next step, one step at a time.

Spend more time reaching out to upper class and advisors sooner than later.

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

I would recommend incorporating research into your medical school experience, ideally in surgery, and get it published. I would apply for more awards. I would get mentors and letter writers lined up before sub-I's (at least 2-3 of them), and then do sub-I on those services so they can add to their knowledge about you. Ask them after the sub-I. Reach out to programs during the limbo phase where you haven't heard from them but they may have already sent out a wave of interview invitations. I would also do away rotations, 1-3 would be sufficient. Don't be deceived - general surgery is competitive and you may have trouble getting interviews. You will be fine, but be prepared to not get interviews you were hoping to get. Talk to career advisors to help network/advocate for you at other institutions.

Start your application early. Easiest to first update your CV since that will be all the info ERAS needs. Start personal statement early. Even if you hate it get words down on paper and send to a mentor.

Don't be afraid to send letters of interest when waiting for interview invitations. Not everything is out of your control once you hit submit on ERAS. I received many interviews because of my letters of interest as well as faculty members emailing on my behalf. It's more work during a time other people might see as "down time" but

it's worth it in the long run!

Don't be shy in reaching out to students that recently went through the match, residents and faculty. At the end, they can be really helpful in making sure you are doing everything in your control to maximize the chances of a successful match. I would take the sub-is pretty seriously as the impression you make in them will really affect how you will be perceived in the institution but also outside of it (i.e. LORs and also if your letter writers end up communicating with your top programs).

Do more research

Be sure to reach out to interns or PGY-2s because often they are aware of which attendings/rotations are more geared towards getting you to meet the appropriate stakeholders that are plugged in academically around the country. This is not to say that you shouldn't do a rotation because of subspecialty interest per se but strictly re: getting a residency spot all 4th year electives are not made equal.

Speak with students who just went through the process.

On your sub-internships, if you are trying to get a letter of recommendation from a particular faculty member, let your residents/chief know so that they can try to optimize the amount of face-time you have with that faculty member. It can be helpful to talk through your application and your program choices with Drs. Campbell, Roman, or Alseidi at the beginning of application season. When it comes time for interviews always have questions prepared for faculty, residents, department chairs, APDs, and PDs and know why you like that program. Down-time during interviews is a great time to make interview trail friends who will not only be your future colleagues but also can talk with you offline about their own program and their impressions of others.

Since surgery is a very academic field in general, the topic of research very often comes up in interviews, especially related to what type of research you are interested in pursuing while in residency (since a lot of programs now have a built-in research requirement). Definitely make sure you think carefully about your answer to this and prepare a good answer/spiel about a possible topic of research you would be interested in pursuing, so that you can be best prepared for interviews!

Speak with faculty mentors in your field, and most importantly the recently graduated class of MS4s that matched into your specialty.

Do what you are interested in and passionate about -- that can change completely and everyone understands that. It's 100% ok and good to volunteer/work/research/publish in a specialty different than where you end up so don't worry too much.

Talk talk talk to your advisors and upperclass people. Very critical to know what's to come and what to look into.