

**Post Match Reporting
2021-2023 Match Cohort Data**

**Specialty: Surgery
Number of Survey Respondents = 20
2021(40%), 2022(35%), 2023(25%)**

Match year	Match cohort	% total cohort
2021	9	5.3%
2022	12	8.5%
2023	7	3.9%

	Average	Std Dev
Step 2	250.20	15.92

Post Match Survey Responses

Which career resources did you use to make your career decisions?

Confidential/Specialty Advisors	12
Bridges Coaches	11
Near Peers	9
Specialty interest group-sponsored panels and presentations	5
Texas Star Dashboard	4
UCSF Post Match Reports	4
Doximity	4
Career Advising Website	3
Co-Directors of Career Advising Program Drs. Brent Kobashi and Heather Whelan	2
Participation in in-house and extramural electives	2
Reddit	2
AAMC Careers in Medicine Website	2
School-sponsored career planning workshops and courses	

Other: please describe what other specific career resources that you found useful.

Near peers and residents the most helpful of all

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

Yes 15
No 5

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

Yes 8
No 12

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

Faculty	11
Family	5
No one	
Outside mentor(s)	2
Partner/Spouse	6
Residents/Fellows	6
Specialty Advisor	

Other: Please describe

Dr. Roman is wonderful but it does feel a little inappropriate that the confidential advisor is married to the department chair (who factors heavily in residency decisions). It might make more sense if Dr. Roman were a non-confidential advisor and Dr. Kirkwood for example were confidential. Just a thought.

Peers

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

Yes	2
No	18

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

Dr. Andre Campbell	7
Dr. Sanziana Roman	3
Dr. Matthew Lin	2
Research mentor	2
Doruk Ozgediz	
Dr. Adnan Alseidi	
Letter writers	
Kimberly Kirkwood	
Dr. William Hoffman	
Peter Stock	
Primary research mentor	
Residents	

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

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.

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

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 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.

I would review ERAS more carefully to make sure all things were squared away. Separately uploading and assigning is not an intuitive process and was insufficiently covered. I might also apply more broadly. I didn't apply to certain programs based on reputation but reputations can lag 10 years or more and I think I should have kept a more open mind.

I would take advantage of faculty offering to reach out to programs on my behalf.

Start writing personal statement earlier start studying for board exams much sooner

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!

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

Prepare more for post-interview communication

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

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

Figure out the requirements of the application process as early as possible so you can plan out 4th year and think about which sub-I rotations to do who you want to get a letter of recommendation from etc. Also try to keep your CV updated.

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!

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.

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.