

Ophthalmology Match Timeline

June-August

Best time to do Ophtho electives. Remember the main thing to accomplish during electives is to get LORs. It's my personal belief that the importance of the "audition rotation" is over emphasized. It can be helpful, but the match process is so random that it is not as simple as doing a good job on a rotation and subsequently matching at that place. The benefit is that it **may** land you an interview there.

June

Register with SF match.

By June/July

Have your CV and personal statement done. Both should be given to everyone that is going to write you a LOR, because it will help them write you a better LOR and because they will often help you with it. Try to give your letter writers a month to write the letter. There are several different opinions on what letters to get. Some people recommend one Ophtho, one medicine, and one surgery (that's what I did). I think it's really hard to know. I would just get the three best LORs you can. Try to get at least one LOR from a core rotation.

June/July

Register with ERAS. The school will issue you a "token." You don't really have to stress about deadlines for the regular match, because the school is good at reminding you.

August

I would try to have my ophtho application (including all LORs) in by the end of August/beginning of September. SF match will post a "target date" on their website. This past year it was **September 5th**. The target date is the date that the SF match will **START** processing applications. You are allowed to start sending in your application in June. Although SF won't start processing applications until the "target date." The applications will be processed on a "first come, first serve" basis. That being said, **due to waiting for LORs**, I couldn't submit my application until September 5th, and my app was processed about 3-4 days after another person who submitted it much earlier.

LORs are the holdup on nearly everyone's application!!! I had one that was late because the writer's mother died, and one that was lost in the mail; twice. **ASK FOR LETTERS EARLY!!!**

To submit your application, you will fill out an old-school pdf application. There is a checklist on sfmatch.org for all of the things you need in your application. When you have it all together, take it into Jean Marques and she will sit down and make sure everything is inline and FedEx it for you. Jean is in charge of helping all of the early match applicants, and is really helpful if you need anything.

September

By the beginning of September, you can start submitting your application to ERAS. This year it was September 1st. I would try to get it completely submitted by the middle of September.

You can use the same LORs as you did for SF; or you can ask the writers to change “this candidate will be an awesome ophtho resident” to “they will be an awesome intern”. You can also use the same Personal Statement, but I would recommend changing it to reflect why you will be a hardworking intern, but you can keep most of it the same since the main thing everyone looks for in a personal statement, is why you are pursuing ophthalmology.

Where you apply for your intern year is really up to you. My fiancé is trying to match into ER and we wanted to stay together, so I had to apply to all of the prelim/transitional year programs at every place I received an **interview**.

You will start to get interview offers during the end of September. Between the “target date” and the time you get your first interview, it will seem like an eternity! Usually interviews are offered for the **End of October to Mid-December**. Scheduling interviews can be difficult, and will invariably require you to reschedule them and try to fit them in. If you’re lucky enough, you’ll have to choose an interview and cancel others! Try to schedule your interviews as soon as you get the email/letter because spots fill up quickly. Some people think you should schedule interviews at your favorite places towards the end, because statistically you are more likely to match at programs you interview at later, but keep in mind you do tend to get worn out towards the end of the trail. (I interviewed at UVA 5th, out of 10).

October

Register with NRMP. This is the matching service for your internship year or for all other things that don't go through SF match. Note: NRMP is different from ERAS! Again, don't stress about this stuff because the school will give you ample reminders!

November/December

Try to leave your schedule during the months of November and December open for interviews. For example, this is not the time to be doing your 4th year medicine sub-I because you will be traveling a lot. Try and schedule easy rotations, research, or just take time off, as I did.

If you want to try and match into an intern year at the place you do ophtho, I'd recommend calling the prelim/transitional programs after your interview and say something along the lines of “I just interviewed at the ophtho program there and really want to do my intern year with you, if I match there.” This is something I really wish I would have done, because for example, I was actually rejected from prelim medicine at UVA before I matched into ophtho because they assumed since they hadn't heard from me, I wasn't interested.

January

- Ophtho rank lists due to SF match the first week of January
- OPHTHO MATCH!!! - this year it was **January 17th**

February

Rank lists do for NRMP

March

Regular match results. For example, this year, on March 17th you will be notified if you matched, and March 20th is Match Day.

CMS Ophthalmology Match History

Program	Year
Charles R Drew	2004
UCSD	2007
Stanford	2007
Univ of Florida	2007
Rush	2006
Northwestern	2005
UIC	2006
Loyola	2001x3
Univ of C	2005
Cook County	2008, 2005 2003x3, 2001x2
Tulane	2002
LSU-New Orleans	2001
Univ of Maryland	2006
Boston Univ	2008, 2006
Henry Ford Hosp	2001
Wayne State U	2006, 2005x2
Mayo Clinic	2005
NSLIJHS	2003
NYMC-Westchester	2006
SUNY-Brooklyn	2002
St Luke's	2005, 2003
UNC	2000
Ohio State	2004
Drexel	2007
UT Southwestern	2007, 2003, 2001
UT San Antonio	2002
Baylor	2006
Univ of Virginia	2008, 2007
Univ of Washington	2007, 2000

Program Directory

www.sfmatch.org

Login: ophthalmology

PW: applicant

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STATISTICS FOR OPHTHALMOLOGY MATCHING PROGRAM JANUARY 2008 & JANUARY 1998-2007

	Jan-08	J-98	J-99	J-00	J-01	J-02	J-03	J-04	J-05	J-06	J-07	Explanation
Registrations	869	995	1110	1024	927	930	922	887	839	824	855	# of registered applicants
All Applicants	789	739	843	815	798	805	800	786	761	743	792	# of applicants who submitted docs to be distributed
Distributed	632	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	# of applicants that completed applications and applications that were distributed
Matched	453	430	430	429	435	438	434	438	443	446	449	# of applicants who matched
Unmatched	179	171	239	216	227	233	216	201	153	174	199	# of applicants that did not match
Positions												
Offered	454	445	437	434	438	440	438	442	445	447	450	Total # of positions offered
Filled	453	430	430	429	435	438	434	438	443	446	449	Total # of positions filled
Unfilled	1*	15	7	5	3	2	4	4	2	1	1	Total # positions left unfilled
Avg. applications	48	30	31	35	36	38	38	41	43	45	47	Average # of applications sent to each program
Avg. offers	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.0	Average # of offers per applicant
*One position withdrawn												
Rank lists												
Rank lists	639	611	669	648	662	671	650	639	596	620	648	# of applicants who submitted a rank list (subtract withdrawals)
Ranked	629	584	633	631	667	653	629	630	608	609	642	# of applicants who were ranked by a program
US Seniors, Grads; IMGs												
#US Seniors	393	341	369	373	379	384	365	369	374	382	399	# of matched applicants who will graduate in 2008
%US Seniors	86%	91%	83%	82%	83%	78%	82%	82%	86%	88%	80%	% of matched applicants who will graduate in 2008
#US Grads	27	41	31	35	33	27	40	34	35	38	25	# of matched applicants who attended US medical school and graduated before 2008
%US Grads	48%	59%	51%	41%	38%	38%	43%	43%	57%	62%	47%	% of matched applicants who attended US medical school and graduate before 2008
% IMGs	32	41	29	20	23	27	29	35	34	26	25	# of matched applicants who graduated from a Foreign Medical School
%IMGs	22%	28%	18%	20%	19%	25%	26%	31%	33%	21%	26%	% of matched applicants wh graduated from a Foreign Medical School

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Avg USMLE Step 1												
Matched	232	na	217	221	224	225	228	228	230	230	231	The average USMLE Step 1 score for the applicants that matched
Unmatched	212	na	201	203	206	208	208	218	213	214	215	The average USMLE Step 1 score for unmatched applicants
% Of All Applicants (n=789)												
Overall	71%	70%	64%	66%	66%	65%	67%	69%	74%	72%	69%	% of all applicants that were offered a position
US Seniors	62%	79%	86%	87%	87%	88%	84%	84%	84%	86%	89%	% of all US senior applicants who will graduate in 2008
US Grads	9%	10%	7%	8%	8%	6%	9%	8%	8%	9%	6%	% of all applicants who attended US medical school and graduated before 2008
IMGs	5%	10%	7%	5%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	6%	6%	% of all international graduates

Source: San Francisco Matching Program