Advising and Career Counseling

Student advising occurs within two broad programs: Pre-clinical Advising and Career Counseling.

Pre-clinical Advising

First-year students are assigned to academic societies upon matriculation. Each academic society has an advisory dean. This advisory dean meets with all first- and second-year students individually during the first and second years. In addition, advisory deans will meet with their students in small groups several times throughout the year. Advisory deans meet and discuss with their students how to succeed in medical school, the opportunities and challenges they may face as medical students, and career paths and how to select among them.

For more information about medical student advising (https://mdstudentaffairs.wustl.edu/academic-support/advising), please visit the Office of Medical Student Affairs Advising webpage.

Career Counseling

In addition to the advising programs described, students seek informal advising from faculty with whom they have had contact, either through classroom work, research or clinical clerkships. Students also have faculty contact through membership in the academic societies. Many of the specialty-specific student interest groups and other student-run programs provide opportunities for clinical shadowing and informal advising as well.

The assistant dean for Career Counseling is available to medical students at any point in their school career to provide individual counseling, particularly in the areas of choosing a specialty and the residency application and match process. At the beginning of their final year of medical school, students are required to meet with the assistant dean for Career Counseling in preparation for writing their Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE or Dean’s Letter). At this meeting and throughout the final year, the assistant dean is available to discuss students’ long-term educational and career goals, to help them choose residency programs that meet these goals, to review their residency applications, and to support the construction of their program rank order list for the match.

Each student also has the opportunity to select a career adviser from a list of faculty in the field in which the student plans to seek a residency position. The career advisers have responsibility for reviewing the student’s choice for fourth-year electives and making appropriate recommendations for the structure and content of the elective year. For more information, visit the Career Counseling Office (https://residency.wustl.edu) website.

List of Advisers

Tessa Madden, MD, MPH (https://wuphysicians.wustl.edu/for-patients/find-a-physician/tessa-madden)
Evan Schwarz, MD (http://emed.wustl.edu/schwarz_evan/Biography.aspx)
Yumi Turmelle, MD, MPH (http://pediatrics.wustl.edu/Faculty/turmelle_y)
Kathy Diemer, MD, Assistant Dean for Career Counseling (https://residency.wustl.edu)
Eva Aagaard, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Education (https://medicine.wustl.edu/news/school-medicine-names-new-leader-medical-education)
Thomas De Fer, MD, FACP, Associate Dean for Medical Student Education (http://meded.dom.wustl.edu/tmdmbiosketch.html)
Lisa Moscoso, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs (http://mdstudentaffairs.wustl.edu/contact)
Medical Student Ombudsperson (Confidential Adviser) (https://ombuds.med.wustl.edu)