University of Minnesota Medical School
Specialty Series

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Neurology

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What is Neurology?

• Neurology is a specialty that involves the diagnosis and treatment of diseases or impaired function of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, muscles, autonomic nervous system, and blood vessels that relate to these structures.
What is Child Neurology?

• Neurology with special qualification in child neurology is a specialty that involves the specialization in neurology with special skills in diagnosis and treatment of neurologic disorders of the neonatal period, infancy, early childhood, and adolescence.
Figure out What you Really Want

• Get involved and exposed to the specialty (home advantage)
• Review your rotation journals or other reflections/tools, etc.
• Talk to your faculty advisor, mentors, peers
• Make sure you choose for the right reasons
What You Can Do

• Create a solid foundation in neuroanatomy/TA
• Learn to localize and to think through pathways
• Practice your neurologic exam
• Shadow a neurologist
• Find a mentor in neurology
• Walk in the shoes of a neurologist during your clerkship
• Do your clerkship early (ideally in MS3 year)
What You Can Do

• Do well in your clerkship
• Consider doing extra time (sub-internship, elective)
• Join the Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN)
• Consider doing research or volunteering
• Check out the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) website and get involved
What You Should Do

• Think about your Personal Statement as a tool
  – Take time for self-reflection
  – Draft and revise
  – Discuss with your FA
  – Have others read it

• Letter of recommendation
  – Writer needs to know you well
  – One of three can be in a different specialty
  – Identify and communicate with letter writers early
The Match: Not to Worry (2011 data)

- Total positions offered: 605 by >100 programs
- Total number of applicants: 755
- Number of applicants per position 1.2
- Matched US seniors: 360
- Not matched US seniors: 15
- Matched independent applicants: 210
- Not matched independent applicants: 170
Matched Neurology Applicants

- First Rank: 56.5%
- Second Rank: 15.6%
- Third Rank: 9.5%
- Fourth Rank: 5.7%
- >Fourth Rank: 12.7%
NRMP Neurology Data 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>U.S. Seniors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matched (n=360)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unmatched (n=15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Mean number of contiguous ranks</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mean number of distinct specialties ranked</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Mean USMLE Step 1 score</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mean USMLE Step 2 score</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mean number of research experiences</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mean number of abstracts, presentations, and publications</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Mean number of work experiences</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mean number of volunteer experiences</td>
<td>5.6</td>
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Step 1 Scores for Neurology in 2011

Probability of Matching

Step 1 Score

U.S. Seniors
Independent Applicants
Mean Number of Research Experiences
Mean Number of Presentations/Publications

U.S. Seniors

- Anesthesiology: Matched 2.8, Not Matched 3.9
- Dermatology: Matched 4.2, Not Matched 4.1
- Diagnostic Radiology: Matched 4.2, Not Matched 3.9
- Emergency Medicine: Matched 2.3, Not Matched 2.1
- Family Medicine: Matched 2.7, Not Matched 1.8
- General Surgery: Matched 2.6, Not Matched 3.3
- Internal Medicine: Matched 2.4, Not Matched 3.2
- Internal Medicine/Pediatrics: Matched 2.7, Not Matched 2.6
- Neurological Surgery: Matched 4.0, Not Matched 3.3
- Neurology: Matched 4.2, Not Matched 3.2
- Obstetrics and Gynecology: Matched 2.2, Not Matched 3.0
- Orthopaedic Surgery: Matched 4.5, Not Matched 4.2
- Otolaryngology: Matched 5.1, Not Matched 3.0
- Pathology: Matched 4.6, Not Matched 3.0
- Pediatrics: Matched 2.1, Not Matched 2.4
- Physical Medicine & Rehab.: Matched 2.3, Not Matched 2.1
- Plastic Surgery: Matched 8.1, Not Matched 6.1
- Psychiatry: Matched 3.0, Not Matched 2.3
- Radiation Oncology: Matched 8.3, Not Matched 6.6
Medical Students

The AAN is committed to providing support for medical and graduate students interested in a career in the clinical or basic neurosciences. This page contains neurology study aids for medical students including core curricula, access to Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology® E-Pearls and Neurology Podcasts. The Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) program provides opportunities to learn more about the field and to participate in clinical, research and service activities. Resources for students preparing to apply for the Neurology Residency Match are also available.

- Educational Resources for Medical and Graduate Students
- Become Involved
- Careers in Neurology: Residency and Beyond

Test Your Knowledge

Education

- 2012 Annual Meeting
- 2011 Annual Meeting
- NeuroTracker
- AAN CME Opportunities
- Maintenance of Certification
- Medical Students
  - 2013 Medical Student Scholarship to the AAN Annual Meeting
  - 2012 Medical Student Summer Research Scholarship Recipient Abstracts
  - Careers in Neurology
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - E-Pearl of the Week
  - NeuroSAFE Medical Student Edition
  - 2012 Medical Student Prize for Excellence Recipients

http://www.aan.com/
http://www.abpn.com/
http://www.ucns.org/