

**Morehouse School of Medicine**  
Applying to Dermatology Timeline

**M1**

- o **Academics**
  - Focus on study techniques, methods, and tutoring to maximize GPA
  - Request Dermatology for your clinical preceptorship sessions
- o **Mentorship**
  - Attend UMass Dermatology Mentorship Sessions
  - Attend Emory Dermatology Mentorship Village
  - Become an active member of the MSM Dermatology Interest Group
  - Join Organizations focused on increasing diversity in Dermatology (NMA dermatology, Skin of Color Society, Dermatology Squad GroupMe, etc.)
- o **Research**
  - Reach out to academic dermatologists based on your clinical/research interests for projects open to student involvement (i.e., case reports, textbook chapters, project development, surveys)
    - Use cold-emailing and CV templates to frame your introductory email
  - Emory Dermatology Student-Research Project Spreadsheet
    - Prepare to become CITI Certified & IRB Trained
  - Search for Summer Research Opportunities & Funding to start projects in Dermatology
    - AAD & WDS Diversity Mentorship Program
    - Nth Dimensions Summer Intern Program at Howard Dermatology
    - MSM Summer Research and Public Health Experience
    - Opportunities for summer funding usually have applications due in Dec/Jan
- o **Community Service in Dermatology**
  - Good Skin Knowledge Project
  - Volunteer at Free Dermatology clinics: Shifa Clinic (Emory) & H.E.A.L. (MSM)
  - MSM H.E.A.L Clinic Community Outreach events: skin-cancer checks
- o **Other**
  - Continue to explore your clinical interests and passions inside and outside of dermatology
  - Maximize your opportunities for exposure to all aspects of dermatology (i.e., shadowing, conferences, virtual events, social media platforms, Derm Interest GroupMe, DIGA)

**M2**

- o **Academics**
  - Focus on study techniques & methods to maximize GPA & ensure STEP 1 pass on first attempt
- o **Mentorship**
  - Continue to uphold relationships with Dermatology Mentors
  - Continue to work on research projects with deliverables (abstracts, poster/oral presentations, manuscripts)
  - Attend Emory Dermatology Mentorship Village Meetings
  - Attend UMass Dermatology Mentorship Sessions
  - Consider applying to formal mentorship & research opportunities
    - AAD Diversity Mentorship Program
    - Women's Dermatologic Society Mentorship Program
    - NMA Dermatology Mentorship Program
    - Skin of Color Society Mentorship Program

- Dermatology Foundation Research Award Program
- Melanoma Research Foundation
- HS Foundation
- PeDRA
- o **Other**
  - Join or obtain leadership positions at organizations dedicated to Diversity in dermatology:
    - MSM Dermatology Interest Group
    - NMA Dermatology
    - Skin of Color Society
    - Dermatology Squad – Mentorship Group (URiM students only)
    - Visual Dx Student Advisory Board
    - MSM HEAL Medical Specialty Liaison
    - Nth Dimensions
  - Attend Dermatology Grand Rounds to learn more about dermatologic disease

## M3

- o **Academics**
  - Start M3 Rotations on time in July
    - Disadvantages to delaying rotations: Late Step 2 CK, Inability to complete away rotations to obtain LOR, Paid Research Years usually start in July
  - Request dermatology for a 2 Week Exploratory Experience before Psychiatry and Family Medicine Rotation
    - Obtain forms from Clerkship office to request private practice dermatologists for shadowing experience
    - Contact Wendy Fox to shadow at The Emory Clinic during days off during rotations
  - Focus on study techniques, shelf exam preparation, and clinical performance to optimize MSPE letter and honor core clinical rotations
- o **Mentorship**
  - Consider creating Twitter account for mentorship and networking
  - Continue building a relationship with mentors
  - Emory Dermatology Peer Mentorship Program
- o **Research**
  - Think about future career goals and consider research projects that aligns with those goals
  - Solidify the decision to take research year
    - Paid Research Fellowship years for MD3 are due in Dec/Jan/Feb.
      - UPenn Skin of Color Pre-Residency Fellowship (Dr. Susan Taylor)
      - Johns Hopkins (Dr. Crystal Aguh)
      - USC Skin of Color Fellowship (Dr. Nada Elbuluk)
      - And more...
    - Reach out to current mentors for help in grant funding (GA CTSA TL1 grant) to fund the research year
  - Wrap Up Deliverables for Research by May/June/July of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year
    - Submit abstracts, case reports, presentations, manuscripts
    - Search for journals where your PI and other students have successfully submitted manuscripts

- JANE is a search engine that can help find journals to submit manuscripts or find articles similar to your research (<https://jane.biosemantics.org/>)
  - Consider attending Nth Dimensions Dermatology Medical Student Symposium and joining their Affiliate Program
- o **Application Prep**
  - Building your brand: what has driven you to dermatology and how has your past experiences helped shape your current and future trajectory?
  - Personal Statement Development
  - AMCAS ERAS Workshop
  - Solidify 3 Letters from **Academic Dermatologists** and explicitly ask if they can write a **strong** letter of recommendation. Consider 1 IM, Peds, Surg, or FM letter for TY/Prelim year
  - Scheduling the Last Portion of M3 Year
    - Step 2 CK Registration
    - Sub-Internships (Emory)
    - Away Rotations (2-4)
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Year Schedule w/ Interviews in mind (most Derm interviews are in January)
  - Away Rotations
    - VSLO Application Preparation
    - Scheduling w/ 4<sup>th</sup> Year Schedule
    - Applying for Away Rotation Scholarships
- o **Other**
  - Attend Dermatology Grand Rounds to learn more about dermatologic diseases and become more familiar with the vocabulary and patient presentation

## M4

- o **Application Prep**
  - Meetings with Emory Dermatology PD and/or APD to discuss your application package
  - Away Rotation Prep
    - AAD Modules
    - Visual Dx Learn Dermatology Modules
    - Reach out to Residents for tips to maximize away rotation
  - Mock Interviews
    - 1-2 mock interviews that represent Dermatology Interview structure (dermatology interviews are not traditional)
  - Interviews
    - Solidify Methods for Organization
      - Separate email address for interview invite notifications
      - Spreadsheet for post-interview feelings and vibes
    - Schedule 4<sup>th</sup> year rotation schedule to maximize interview possibilities (i.e., taking the month of January off)
    - Reach out to mentors to advocate on your behalf if you are not receiving target amount of interview invites
    - Keep mentors in the loop of your interview process and rank list