

ANESTHESIOLOGY RESIDENCY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SPECIALTY OVERVIEW:

According to the American Society of Anesthesiologists, anesthesiology is a discipline within the practice of medicine dealing with but not limited to, and specializing in:

- A. The preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative evaluation and treatment of patients who are rendered unconscious and/or insensible to pain and emotional stress during surgical, obstetrical, therapeutic and diagnostic or other medical procedures;
- B. The protection of life functions and vital organs (e.g., brain, heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, endocrine, skin integrity, nerve [sensory and muscular]) under the stress of anesthetic, surgical and other medical procedures;
- C. Monitoring and maintenance of normal physiology during the perioperative period;
- D. Diagnosis and treatment of acute, chronic and cancer-related pain;
- E. Clinical management of cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation;
- F. Evaluation of respiratory function and application of respiratory therapy;
- G. Management of critically ill patients;
- H. Conduct of clinical, translational and basic science research;
- I. Supervision, teaching and evaluation of performance of both medical and paramedical personnel involved in perioperative care and cardiac and pulmonary resuscitation.

HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING IN THIS SPECIALTY?

Four years. One year of internship: transitional/surgery/internal medicine; three years of anesthesiology residency.

ARE THERE SUBSPECIALTIES? WHAT ARE THEY?

- Pain Medicine (board certification available)
- Critical Care Medicine (board certification available)
- Obstetrical Anesthesia
- Pediatric Anesthesia
- Cardiothoracic Anesthesia
- Neuroanesthesia
- Ambulatory Anesthesia
- Regional Anesthesia

WHAT ARE THE TOP REGIONAL PROGRAMS IN THIS SPECIALTY?

Baylor, Scott & White, University of Texas Southwestern

WHAT ARE THE TOP NATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THIS SPECIALTY?

Stanford, John Hopkins, UCSF.

IN GENERAL, HOW MANY PROGRAMS SHOULD STUDENTS APPLY TO?

Five

WHAT ARE PROGRAM DIRECTORS LOOKING FOR IN APPLICANTS FOR THIS SPECIALTY?

- Honesty
- Solid Board Scores
- Hardworking students
- Good clinical skills
- Students focused on education.

FROM WHICH DEPARTMENT(S) SHOULD STUDENTS REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?

One letter from an anesthesiologist; Two letters from your choice of Surgery/Internal Medicine/Pediatrics/OB/Gyn

ARE “AUDITION ELECTIVES” COMMONLY REQUIRED OR STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY PROGRAMS IN THIS SPECIALTY?

Audition electives are not required. Since students usually have little or no exposure to anesthesia outside an elective, almost all applicants have taken at least one anesthesia elective.

WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO DURING THEIR FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THIS SPECIALTY?

- First and Second Year: participate in anesthesia club activities
- Summer between First and Second Year: Preceptorship
- Third year: one week anesthesia elective during surgery rotation
- Fourth year: OR anesthesia elective. This elective includes a literature review paper, and competition for Best Fourth Year Student; Research elective: must be approved
- Pain Medicine elective
- All years: become a member of the American Society of Anesthesiology and /or the ASA Medical Student Delegation

For more detailed information see the ASA Medical Student Homepage at <http://www.asahq.org/msd/homepage.html>