Exploring career options means knowing how to find, assess and identify which overall career paths and specific positions and organizations are a good fit with your ‘critical factors’ - your values, interests, skills and preferences.

At this point in your career your focus will be on exploring and choosing a specialty. Finding a specialty which is a good fit with your values and interests can feel like a daunting step - particularly if you are unclear on where to look for reliable specialty information or what information to focus on during your research.

**Exploring specialty options**

Gather basic information on the nature of the work and training required for 26 specialties on AMA’s Careers in Medicine [1] web site. For more in-depth information such as personal characteristics, salary, workforce statistics, match data, websites to specialty groups and publications sign in to Careers in Medicine [2].

1. Research specialties by browsing medical specialty society websites. [3]
2. Tap into resources available through the School of Medicine. Talk with a representative from the Advisory College [4] or your career advisor [5] to learn more about a specific specialty.
3. Talk with current residents and professionals in your specialty.

**Exploring non-clinical career options**

- Read Non-clinical careers for doctors [6], at Student Doctor Network.
- Read When clinical practice isn't enough, some physicians find new careers [7], from American College of Physicians, Internist.
- Read 'I've Had It With Medicine' 16 Options for Second Careers [8], at Medscape.
- Join Drop Out Club - Linking Physicians, Scientists and Business [9].

**Career paths**
Communications and Journalism:

- Read about health communications at the AAMC [10].
- Read about medical writing careers at the American Medical Writers Association [11].

Consulting

- Read why this cardiologist left medicine for the business world, and how one of his patients who died defined what matters most to him [12], at CareerHoot.
- Read why doctors are the heroes of management consulting [13], at Med Crunch.
- Join UCSF’s Registered Campus Organization: The Consulting Club [14].

Healthcare Executive


Medical Devices

- Read about Stanford's Biodesign Fellowship [16], at Standford University.

Pharma industry

- Read an overview of Pharma industry careers [17] at Student Doctor Network.
- Join UCSF's Registered Campus Organization: Biotech Connection Bay Area [18].

Regulatory & Medical Affairs

- Review A day in the life of a Medical Director [19], by Dr. Glenn Carter, at SlideShare.

Source URL: https://career.ucsf.edu/medical-students/career-exploration

Links
[1] https://www.aamc.org/students/medstudents/cim/specialties/
[2] https://services.aamc.org/careersinmedicine/