Career Exploration

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
- Read about the role of Healthcare Executive [15], at the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

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/