General surgeons must have a strong foundation in a variety of medical and surgical problems. Students pursuing a career in surgery should focus on electives and selectives that give the student responsibility for diagnosis and management of diverse patients. Use the time available to you during your MS4 year to remedy any self-identified gaps in knowledge.

**Suggested Selectives/Sub-Internships:**
- EMED 4005 – Emergency Medicine Selective (Ambulatory)
- MEDI 4015 – Clinical Gastroenterology (Ambulatory)
- SURG 4002 – Surgical Oncology (Inpatient)
- SURG 4038 – Rural Surgery (Ambulatory)
- SURG 4042 – General Surgery UH (Inpatient)
- SURG 4047 – Emergency Surgery (Inpatient)

**Suggested Electives:**
- MEDI 4077 – EKG Interpretation
- RADI 4001 – General Diagnostic Radiology
- SURG 4049 – Surgical Internship Readiness
- Any elective in the following departments:
  - Anesthesiology
  - General Surgery and subspecialties
  - Internal Medicine and subspecialties

**Away Rotations:**
They are not required. It may be useful to seek an away rotation if you have a particular interest in a certain program or location.

**USMLE Step 2 CK/CS:**
It is generally a good idea to have completed both Step 2 CK/CS prior to the interview season beginning. Interviews are typically held from November through mid-January. Taking Step 2 CK early (before Sept. 1st) will ensure your score is available when ERAS opens.

For further information visit the [American College of Surgeons “Online Guide to Choosing a Surgical Residency”](#)

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