

Virtual Suggestion Box Replies

Suggestion #1: Avoiding Medical Malpractice

"I would also love a lecture on medicine and the judicial system. I know it can be a touchy subject, but knowledge is power. We can gain insight into the realities of some specialties and learn how to prevent any legal issues."

Response:

"This topic is covered in Transition to Residency, as well as in Intersession II via the HEAL curriculum that included "Keeping our Patients Safe: Risk Management and Medical Malpractice". TTR included sessions on Disclosing Adverse Events, Medical Malpractice & Malpractice Insurance, and Dealing with Mistakes as an Intern. The above sessions included doctors, lawyers, MD/JDs, and folks from the office of risk management."

Suggestion #2: Required Curricular Event Scheduling

"It would be easier for medical students to engage in community service and research if required events were on the same days at the same times per week. (For example, epic and HJSC always are on Mondays 10-12)."

Response:

"We agree that we can look for greater efficiencies in the weekly structure while preserving or enhancing the sequencing and integration of educational content. While we currently make efforts to cluster required sessions and to otherwise regularize the timing of their delivery, we are also looking at even greater use of that strategy including what is feasible for academic year 2023-2024."

Suggestion #3: UWorld Subscription

"We were given a 12-month Uworld subscription in January, now that the Step 1 date has been moved, this will expire before we take step 1. We were not told about this change early enough to plan accordingly. Our subscription to Uworld should be extended free of charge."



Response:

We are investigating a way to pay for a UWorld subscription extension for Step 1 for the class of 2026. We will provide additional updates in the fall.”

Suggestion #4: Financial Literacy

“More financial information as in, how are our loans accumulating, what do we do when we're done with medical school with our loans (combine, etc.), what are the options for loan forgiveness, and how do most people pay off their loans? I recently read White Coat Investor Student Guide, which I found very insightful. It would be nice if the school touched on those things while allowing us a safe space to ask questions.”

Response:

“Students are invited to meet with Jason Murillo, Asst. Director of Financial Aid Planning and Recruitment, in their second, third, and fourth year to discuss how to manage their student loans. These meetings are required of some 2nd, 3rd and 4th year medical students depending on the amount of their student loan indebtedness, but any student can schedule an individual meeting to discuss their questions about financial aid and student loan options. These meetings cover the following topics:

1. Budgeting
2. Loan Repayment Plans
3. Loan Forgiveness Programs
4. Loan Repayment Calculators
5. Loan Consolidation
6. Loan Refinance
7. Scholarship Opportunities

Students are also encouraged to utilize the resources provided by the AAMC as part of their FIRST (Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools) which offers guidance about paying for medical school, managing money, and repaying student loans. Webinars are often provided by the AAMC on these very topics. These opportunities are shared by the Asst. Director of Financial Aid Planning as they are made available.

(Continued...)



Response to Suggestion 4 Continued:

Also, each year, the Assistant Director of Financial Aid Planning invites representatives from Radden Education Institute (REI) to present information of interest to medical students like the benefits of utilizing a certified financial planner to assist in matters like budgeting, using loan repayment calculators, loan repayment and loan forgiveness plans, loan consolidation and refinance and scholarship opportunities. All students are welcome to reach out to Jason Murillo at any time with questions about debt management (student loan repayment) and Keck scholarship opportunities. Jason can be reached at jmurillo@usc.edu.”

