

M3's Preparing for M4 Away Rotations- January 7, 2013

Attached you will find some information regarding VSAS, the visiting student application process being used by more than 100 medical schools. You won't be able to create an account or apply to schools yet but I wanted to provide you with this info as I'm sure you're thinking about your M4 year. It's also a good idea to start thinking about collecting all the documentation you will need to apply to these schools. Some schools require a great detail of supplemental documentation and it can take some time to get it all ready. Most schools will NOT accept applications until April/May.

Most, if not all, these schools will require you to use VSAS to apply for away rotations in your M4 year. Please visit this website for additional information and training resources and tutorials, <http://www.aamc.org/vsas>. The online tutorials and attached documents will be very helpful in answering your questions about the application process.

Please consult your student handbook regarding the away rotation policy (<http://som.missouri.edu/studenthandbook/>). There are limitations on how many away rotations you may complete for credit. All fourth year Rural Track elective courses approved at designated Rural Track training sites are considered to be under the supervision of Columbia-based School of Medicine faculty.

We will be having a class meeting to discuss M4 registration; including VSAS. **It is scheduled for Feb. 22, 12-1pm in Acuff.** Additional registration/M4 process documents will be posted to your student home page by early February. We are currently updating the senior rotation catalog and it will be made available in early February as well.

You will be issued VSAS authorization in February (after VSAS has updated their site) and will receive an email with log-in info from the AAMC. It's important that you do not delete the email from the AAMC. They issue the log-ins/passwords and I won't have this information. In the event you do misplace the email, you'll need to contact VSAS/AAMC directly for your log-in information.

PLEASE NOTE: Most schools will require a background screening (or multiple ones). We do not process screenings on our students so you'll need to coordinate this yourself. There are a number of companies available on the internet and many requests can be scheduled online. Many students go through the state highway patrol or get a national background check. We can't recommend one over the other and we do not have a list of companies.

Keep in mind cost and turn-around time vary and you may want to start this process now. Be sure to check visiting school requirements. Many schools will require specific screenings and will require checks be completed less than a year at the start of the rotation. For example, our hospital requires 4 specific background screenings before a visiting student can rotate; and completed within the year.

Happy New Year,

Amy

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