



## Selecting your Base Hospital: Should You Be Worried?

### Timeline

Step	When?
Explore base hospital options	1 <sup>st</sup> year
Tour base hospitals	Summer between 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> years
Base Hospital Selection/Lottery	September of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year

### FAQ

- [How can I learn about the different base hospitals that are available?](#)
- [How important is it that I try to pick the “best” base hospital for my clerkship training?](#)
- [Will the “wrong” base hospital jeopardize my ability to obtain my preferred residency?](#)
- [What factors should I consider when making my selection?](#)

#### How can I learn about the different base hospitals that are available?

- Attend the [DME Expo](#) at the [annual MOA meeting](#)
- Research the [base hospitals](#) online
- [Tour the hospitals](#)
- Talk to base hospital liaisons - [Class of 2018](#), [Class of 2019](#), MSUCOM administrators, clinical teaching faculty, and your [MSUCOM career guidance advisor](#)

#### How important is it that I try to pick the “best” base hospital for my clerkship training?

For most students, choice of base hospital is *not particularly important*, though it may seem to be, and falls under the general category of “small stuff,” as in “Don’t sweat the....” There are many reasons why this is so, including:

- All base hospitals provide an excellent clerkship education. Though there are real differences among the base hospitals, the MSUCOM core curriculum ensures you will be adequately trained.
- You are at your base hospital for a relatively short amount of time. Because you are allowed 36 weeks of selective and elective rotations outside of your base hospital, you may be at your base hospital for as little as one year.
- You can use selective and elective rotations to explore specialties and residency programs outside of your base hospital.
- Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, most students are still in an “exploratory” phase when it comes to specialty choice and residency program selection; therefore, for most students, it is premature to consider these factors when selecting a base hospital.

For some students, base hospital selection may be more important due to personal/family issues that may necessitate being located in a specific geographic region. These students may request “[special consideration](#).”

Bottom line: Selecting a base hospital should not become a source of anxiety or concern. No matter where you receive your clinical training, your experience—whether positive or negative—and how much you learn are much more dependent on *your* attitude and *your* level of engagement than on the attributes of the specific base hospital in which you train.

### **Will the “wrong” base hospital jeopardize my ability to obtain my preferred residency?**

No. Though there may be an advantage to being “known” to the residency programs to which you are applying, most students apply to and “rank” programs outside of their base hospital. With the availability of selective and elective rotations, as well as “[Clinical Enrichment Experiences](#),” you will have many opportunities to rotate in programs of interest.

### **What factors should I consider when making my selection?**

When evaluating base hospitals, the following factors are most commonly considered:

- Geographic location: region of the state; setting: urban, suburban, or rural; cost of living, housing, transportation, parking, availability of entertainment, good restaurants, etc.
- Social and educational “environment” of the hospital and “fit” with personality preferences
- Availability of residency training programs in your area of specialty interest
- Number of residency training positions available (a potential indicator of the educational environment, e.g., availability of structured educational opportunities)
- Size of the hospital
- Diversity and make-up of patient population

### **Additional information available on the College web site:**

#### **MSUCOM>>Students>>Clerkship Program**

- **Choosing Your Base Hospital**  
[http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Base\\_Hospital\\_Selection.htm](http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Base_Hospital_Selection.htm)

#### **MSUCOM>>Academics>>D.O. Program>>Rotations (Years 3&4)**

- **Clinical Clerkship Curriculum (C3/R2 Curriculum Track)**  
[http://www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship\\_program/top\\_page\\_links\\_clerkship/c3\\_r2\\_curriculum/c3\\_r2\\_curriculum.htm](http://www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/top_page_links_clerkship/c3_r2_curriculum/c3_r2_curriculum.htm)
- **Clinical Clerkship Program Requirements**  
[http://www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship\\_program/top\\_page\\_links\\_clerkship/c3\\_r2\\_curriculum/c3\\_r2\\_clerkship\\_program\\_requirements.htm](http://www.com.msu.edu/AP/clerkship_program/top_page_links_clerkship/c3_r2_curriculum/c3_r2_clerkship_program_requirements.htm)

#### **Base Hospital Special Consideration**

- **Policy** [http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Special\\_Consideration\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Special_Consideration_Policy.pdf)
- **Request Form** [http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Special\\_Consideration\\_Request\\_Form.pdf](http://www.com.msu.edu/Students/Clerkship/Special_Consideration_Request_Form.pdf)