



Perspective / Opinion

Preparing for the Match, for Advocacy, and for Life

By Emelyn Zaworski

Leadership begins with yourself. To lead, you must have both insight and foresight. A leader plots her path and knows her destination. In medical school, this translates to understanding what you need to accomplish, knowing which specialty to pursue, and how to present yourself to successfully Match.

The leadership track has a module to help get you started. This module is self-lead, self-paced, and begins with self-reflection. Each of us may identify a different specialty as our version of success. Therefore, this module allows everyone to choose their own adventure and explore their unique path to residency. Nai-Fen Su, PhD, Associate Director of Career Services at MCW, acts as a guide. She has provided resources with information spanning every specialty. She'll also review CVs and assist in identifying areas for self-development. With thoughtful advanced planning and Dr. Su on your side, you'll crush Match Day without a doubt.

Boom. Success. You've completed the self-development module. You are now a self-aware, goal-oriented, ultra-focused medical student. Every aspect of your medical journey is charted. Your application is sorted, and you know you're the perfect applicant. Grand. But you're not a leader. Not yet. Leadership may begin with knowing oneself, but that's merely a prerequisite.

Advocacy, on the other hand, is a sign of true leadership. With your advanced capabilities, it's time to improve not only yourself but the world around you. The advocacy module will kickstart your advocacy process. There are many types of advocacy, from personal to political. What type inspires you? What calls you to action? This module requires you to identify a cause, actively network, and create a plan to enact change. Participation is not for the faint of heart. The module will not be a passive experience. After all, you must be active to enact change and pave the way for those who follow.

Emelyn Zaworski is in the Class of 2024 at MCW. She aspires to be a woman surgeon who is passionate about improving medical education.