

1. You should do core rotations in the specialties of interest before electives in such specialties. Preceptors of elective rotations usually have higher expectations in terms of clinical knowledge and acumen (i.e. history taking, physical exam, interpretation of investigations, and management formulation).
2. Elective rotations should be used to strengthen and optimize your probability of matching into the specialties of interest, rather than exploring potential career options. Career exploration should be done during preclerkship/summer holidays/core rotations.
3. Read around your cases. Show that you are keen to learn. Be pleasant and be easy to work with.
4. Be collaborative rather than competitive with other students (including other elective students). Do not take away all the opportunities for other students to demonstrate what they know and how they can contribute to the team (i.e. do not take all the calls or upstage anyone). You need to support your future colleagues of every specialty whom you strongly depend upon for future patient care.
5. Be professional: punctuality (10 minutes late is 10 minutes wasted for everyone on the team), dress code, language, treating everyone nicely and respectfully, etc. Be responsible for the care of every patient (including dictating clinical notes in a timely manner).
6. Take time to teach and mentor students who are more junior than you. It will go a long way.
7. Always think about how to provide value to the team. Have patients' best interests in mind: physical, mental, intellectual, and financial. Our goal is to help patients, not discharge them ASAP.
8. Notify the team well in advance of any schedule changes, delays, or absences.
9. Notify the team in a timely manner of any significant clinical change in your patients or any concerns your patients and their families may have that you cannot adequately deal with.
10. Understand the role of multidisciplinary professionals and value their input respectfully as colleagues. Communicate the patient care plan with them whenever possible.