FAQ

When does the lottery open and close?
See Canvas Announcements for dates and times of lottery open/close and add/drop periods.

How does the scheduling lottery work?
The lottery program takes all students participating in the lottery and randomizes them. It takes student #1 and takes the first priority selection on the list. Is there an opening for this specific course? If yes, it assigns that opening to student #1. If not, it looks at the next selection on the student’s list (in priority order). This is repeated until student #1 has one course assigned. Once a course is assigned to student #1, the application moves to the next student and repeats this process until every student has 1 course assigned. Following the completion of each round, all students are rerandomized before assignment selections are repeated. If the system finds no openings after going through all of a student’s selections, it will move on to the next student without assigning a course to the first student. So, it is important to enter a preference-choice for each elective you are interested in.

Is there a limit to the number of selections I can put into the lottery?
No. Students can include as many selections as they would like in the lottery. There is no guarantee that you will get any or all of your preferences during the lottery.

Why can’t I see all courses to add to my lottery preferences?
Courses requiring course director approval cannot be scheduled during the lottery. They will be available during the drop/add phase of scheduling.

Can I drop a course anytime?
No, electives can only be dropped during the Add/Drop period. If you have special circumstances you may request an exception from this rule from the Phase I-II Director of Electives, Andy Bradford, PhD.

Do Phase II students receive scheduling preference?
For the fall semester, Phase II students do have a slight preference as there are separate lotteries for Phase I and Phase II, and the Phase II lottery happens first.

How many electives should I take?
There are no specific maximums for the number of electives that a student can/should take. However, students often sign up for more electives than they can handle because they are all so interesting. A good rule of thumb for the number of electives to take is 1 elective for fall of Phase I. Make sure you are considering all of your other extracurricular activities when determining how much time you have to devote to electives.

How much time will I spend in a given elective?
The time commitment and schedule of each elective varies. Review the course book to determine when the course is offered and how it fits into other activities in your schedule.
**How do I decide which electives to take?**

Electives are meant to broaden your medical school experience, support your career development, and strengthen your interests. Think carefully about what your specific goal for enrolling in each elective is. Consider the following questions:

- What do I hope to gain by doing this elective?
- Why is this elective important to me now vs. waiting until later in my training?
- Will I have other opportunities in medical school to gain these skills?
- Make sure to consider your other extracurricular activities in determining how many electives to take or which electives to take.

**If I am a Track student do I need to sign up in the lottery or Add/Drop period?**

No, you be automatically registered for those courses. If you don’t see them on your schedule please email **SOM.Schedule@ucdenver.edu**