

# Teaching Tips

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## Department of Family & Social Medicine Faculty Development E-Newsletter



### Five Tips for Advising Students about Family Medicine

*How can we advise students considering family medicine as a career amid often negative messages and misconceptions? Is there an alternative to the "hard sell" approach? Consider opening up questions for the student to investigate thus allowing the student to clarify their values and encourage further reflection.*

Discussion Topic	Student Concerns	Faculty Response
<b>Student Interests and Values</b>	I think I like family medicine but I particularly liked pediatrics.	What is it you enjoyed about each specialty? With which residents and faculty did you find yourself most comfortable? Why?
<b>Personal Concerns About Family Medicine</b>	You can't make enough money in family medicine.	What sources could provide facts about this subject? "Enough" is relative... what does that mean for you?
<b>What Others Say About Family Medicine</b>	Some attendings have said I'd be wasting my education on family medicine.	With whom could you speak to get a better idea of what patients you would see and of the intellectual challenges in family medicine?
<b>Conflicting Messages</b>	Why do family doctors get very little respect even though it seems like a very challenging career?	How do family doctors here feel about that? Have you been able to discuss this with family doctors in a community setting vs. an academic medical center?
<b>Reacting to Statements About Their Career Choice</b>	I feel as if I might be criticized for choosing family medicine as my career even though that's really what I want.	Who can you go to for support in figuring out how to respond to criticism? What kinds of attitudes about family medicine might you expect to hear from other students, family or friends? Are you in contact with the Family and Social Medicine Interest Group at Einstein?

Reference: Bradner, Melissa (May, 2011). Sitting in the Career Advisor Chair: Five Discussion Topics for the Student Advising Session. Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Education Columns.