

Just a few words about the opportunity at Creighton to develop a career in ID/Critical Care:

Background: Career pathways of recent Creighton ID fellows have often led to ID/Critical Care. Look at our fellows with graduation dates in recent years:

- 2021: One stayed at Creighton for its one-year standalone critical care medicine fellowship. The other went to Mayo Rochester for a two-year critical care medicine fellowship.
- 2022: The fellow stayed at Creighton for critical care fellowship.
- 2023: One stayed at Creighton for critical care fellowship. The other embarked on telehealth/ID.
- 2024: The fellow went to Rutgers for critical care fellowship.
- 2025 (expected): Both have obtained offers for critical care fellowship at Creighton.

What led us to develop a relationship between ID and critical care:

- Historically, two of our fellowship graduates had gone on to ID/critical care careers.
- A major remodeling of our academic medical center left us with a substantial increase in ICU capacity. Accompanying the bed capacity was an increase in critical care faculty. At this point, we have three critical care teams (and also a trauma service).
- ACGME accredited Creighton for a one-year standalone critical care medicine fellowship.

In general, here's the pathway at Creighton that can lead to a career in ID/critical care:

- Join Creighton for our two-year ID fellowship. Take advantage of the opportunities to work with our critical care faculty, especially during your first year, including:
  - Spend two weeks on an ICU elective.
  - Participate in the quarterly ID/critical care case conference.
  - For your quality improvement project, consider a topic involving critical care that may involve working with critical care faculty.
  - Same for your research project—consider a topic related to critical care.
- At the conclusion of your two-year ID fellowship, commence training in Creighton's one-year standalone critical care fellowship.
- Pass the ABIM exam in ID and become certified in ID.
- Pass the ABIM exam in critical care and become certified in critical care as well.
- In contrast to integrated pulmonary critical care fellowships, the list of ACGME-accredited fellowships does not include integrated ID critical care fellowships. (<http://www.acgme.org/Specialties/Overview/pfccatid/2/Internal-Medicine/>). ABIM does allow for a physician who has completed an ID fellowship to train for a year in critical care and (after passing exams in both fields) become certified in ID and critical care.

One of our positions in the Match for training beginning July 2025 is designated "ID/critical care." Here's how it works:

- Late in the summer or early in the fall of 2024, you will have Zoom interviews with ID faculty and fellows. Be sure to clearly indicate your interest in the "ID/critical care" position.
- We will evaluate your application. In particular, we will evaluate your suitability for the ID/critical care position.
- If that evaluation is favorable, we will subsequently schedule a Zoom interview for you with critical care.
- ID and critical care faculty will work together in preparing the rank list for the ID/critical care position.
- If you match into the ID/critical care position, both ID and critical care will evaluate certain aspects of your performance during your ID fellowship.
- You will be offered a position in Creighton's one-year standalone critical care medicine fellowship if you meet these standards:
  - Achieve a passing score on ABIM internal medicine boards.
  - Successfully complete a 2-week ICU rotation during each year of the ID fellowship, with no red flags identified on: (a) ICU rotation evaluations from faculty and (b) feedback from current critical care medicine/pulmonary critical care fellows.
  - We have a quarterly ID-CCM fellowship case conference. Expectation: Present cases at least two conferences per year.

- Identify a quality improvement project and mentor in first year of ID fellowship, preferably overlapping between ID and CCM subspecialties.
- Identify a research project and mentor in first year of ID fellowship, preferably overlapping between ID and CCM subspecialties.
- Successfully complete the 24-month ID fellowship in 2-year timeframe.

Q. Let's say I don't match into the ID/critical care position. Instead, I match into Creighton's general ID fellowship position. Could I still go into a career in ID/critical care?

A. Yes. Indeed, you could make some choices in your Creighton ID fellowship that would head in the direction of a career in ID/critical care: (1) Arrange a 2-week ICU elective rotation as part of your inpatient ID months. (2) Present cases in our quarterly ID/critical care case conference. (3) Choose quality improvement and research topics related to the overlap between ID and critical care and involving input from critical care faculty. This would provide you with background to apply for a one-year standalone critical care fellowship. Unlike a fellow in the designated ID/critical care position, however, you wouldn't have a position in Creighton's critical care fellowship set aside for you on the condition of meeting certain standards. Nonetheless, you could still apply for a position in Creighton's critical care fellowship. Indeed, a fellow in our Class of 2025 did just that, and that fellow received an offer of an out-of-the-Match agreement to accept a position in Creighton's critical care fellowship. Alternatively, you could apply for a critical care fellowship position elsewhere.

Q. I'm very interested in ID training at Creighton and going on to a career in ID/critical care. Should I rank both of Creighton's positions (the ID/critical care position and the general ID position)?

A. This might be a good idea. Rank both positions, but put the ID/critical care position in a more preferred position on your rank list. If you match to the ID/critical care position, you have the advantage of a critical care position set aside for you, provided you meet the standards noted above. The general ID position is less attractive because you won't have a critical care position set aside for you. However, you will have an opportunity to get some critical care exposure. This could lead to the possibility of an offer by Creighton for a critical care fellowship or to applying for a position elsewhere.

Q. What if I'm thinking about ID/critical care but I'm really not sure this is the career for me?

A. You might want to rank both positions, as noted in the answer to the previous question. Let's say you start in the ID/critical care position, but you discover that your interests lie elsewhere. You are not obligated to accept a critical care fellowship at the conclusion of your ID fellowship.

Q. Let's say I indicate my interest in the ID/critical care position at the Zoom interview with ID faculty and fellows. But then I don't hear anything from Creighton about an interview with critical care faculty. What does this mean for my interest in the ID/critical care position?

A. Unfortunately, it means that: (a) your application was reviewed and (b) it was not seen as strong enough to merit consideration for the ID/critical care position. It's analogous to applying for a residency in Specialty X at University Y—and not getting an interview invitation. It means you aren't going to be ranked for that position.

Q. I'm thinking about beginning fellowship starting in July 2026 (rather than July 2025). This description about an ID/critical care pathway deals with fellowship positions starting in July 2025. Will this pathway be available if I seek fellowship starting in July 2026?

A. The situation for fellowship starting July 2026 is expected to be different. We expect to have one position (not two) available for training starting July 2026. Also, we continue to evaluate and evolve aspects of our fellowship, including the relationship of ID to critical care.