Main Residency Match:
Is It Becoming More Competitive?

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LEARN SERVE LEAD
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Main Residency Match
Active Applicants and PGY-1 Positions

13,269 More PGY-1 Positions Than Active MD Seniors in 2019
## Main Residency Match

PGY-1 Matches by Applicant Type

### Number of Unmatched Applicants Declined for 4 Consecutive Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>US Seniors</th>
<th>Prior US Grads</th>
<th>DOs</th>
<th>US IMGs</th>
<th>IMGs</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Unmatched</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,795</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>1,749</td>
<td>2,881</td>
<td>2,721</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>1,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,204</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>1,561</td>
<td>3,556</td>
<td>2,770</td>
<td>1,266</td>
<td>1,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,431</td>
<td>1,784</td>
<td>1,757</td>
<td>3,633</td>
<td>2,691</td>
<td>1,367</td>
<td>1,426</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>9,091</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>1,794</td>
<td>3,641</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8,583</td>
<td>2,002</td>
<td>2,127</td>
<td>3,660</td>
<td>2,889</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>1,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>8,653</td>
<td>2,338</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>3,769</td>
<td>2,777</td>
<td>1,077</td>
<td>1,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>8,640</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>2,833</td>
<td>3,771</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8,281</td>
<td>2,396</td>
<td>3,771</td>
<td>4,028</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>1,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>8,063</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>5,076</td>
<td>8,795</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>7,826</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>7,826</td>
<td>8,204</td>
<td>7,826</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- US Seniors
- Prior US Grads
- DOs
- US IMGs
- IMGs
- Others
- Unmatched

**Note:** The number of unmatched applicants has declined for 4 consecutive years from 2010 to 2018.
Main Residency Match
PGY-1 Match Rate by Applicant Type

US MD Senior Match Rate Steady at +/-94%

- US MD Seniors: 93.9%
- DO Physicians: 84.6%
- US IMGs: 59%
- IMGs: 58.6%
- Prior US MD Grads: 45.4%
Main Residency Match
US MD Seniors Matched to PGY-1 Positions

2,771 More MD Seniors Matched Since 2010

Matched
Unmatched

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE
US MD Seniors in SOAP 2012-2019

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE

*All SOAP Eligible seniors who did not have any position at the conclusion of SOAP, regardless of whether they submitted a ROL.
US MD Seniors’ Match Rates By Preferred Specialty
Most Match to Their First-Choice Specialty

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE
Percent Programs Citing Each Factor: Interview Selection

Source: NRMP 2018 Program Director Survey
Percent Programs Citing Each Factor: Ranking
It’s All About the Interview

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE

Source: NRMP 2018 Program Director Survey
Program Use of USMLE Step 1 Scores

**Exam Required for Interview?**
- 2016: 32% Yes, pass only, 34% Yes, target score
- 2018: 67% Yes, target score, 64% No

**Consider applicants who fail 1st attempt?**
- 2016: 8% Never, 30% Seldom, 4% Often
- 2018: 30% Never, 59% Seldom, 11% Often

Source: NRMP Program Director Survey
Step 1 Scores Are Rising
By Preferred Specialty

Source: NRMP Data Warehouse and AAMC Data Warehouse.
Program Use of USMLE Step 2CK Scores

Exam Required for Interview?

- Fewer programs require Step 2 for interviews
- 2016: Yes, pass only 34%, Yes, target score 49%, No 40%
- 2018: Yes, pass only 21%, Yes, target score 39%, No 40%

Consider applicants who fail 1st attempt?

- 92% never or seldom consider applicants with a failure
- 2016: Never 35%, Seldom 57%, Often 8%
- 2018: Never 35%, Seldom 57%, Often 8%

Source: NRMP Program Director Survey

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE
Step 2 CK Scores Are Rising
By Preferred Specialty

Source: NRMP Data Warehouse and AAMC Data Warehouse.
Percent US MD Seniors Citing Each Factor: Applications

- Geographic location: 88%
- Perceived goodness of fit: 84%
- Reputation of program: 83%
- Academic medical center program: 68%
- Quality of residents in program: 67%
- Quality of curriculum & training: 66%
- Work/life balance: 64%
- Quality of faculty: 61%
- Cost of living: 58%
- Quality of program director: 57%
- Future fellowship opportunities in the institution: 57%
- Program size: 56%
- Career paths of recent program graduates: 56%
- Balance between supervision & patient care: 54%
- Social & recreational opportunities in area: 53%
- Housetaff morale: 53%
- Preparation for fellowship training: 52%
- Diversity of patient problems: 51%
- Quality of hospital facility: 46%
- Program flexibility to pursue electives: 46%
- Research opportunities: 41%
- Cultural/ethnic diversity of geographic location: 38%

Source: 2019 Applicant Survey
Percent US MD Seniors Citing Each Factor: Applications (cont’d)

- Salary: 24%
- Availability of electronic medical record: 23%
- ABMS board pass rates: 21%
- Community-based program: 20%
- Opportunity for international experience: 16%
- Supplemental income (moonlighting) opportunities: 15%
- Opportunity for systems-based practice: 15%
- Alternative duty hours: 8%
- Schools for my children in the area: 8%
- Other benefits: 5%
- Previous Match violation: 4%

Source: 2019 Applicant Survey
Percent US MD Seniors Citing Each Factor: Ranking

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE

Source: 2019 Applicant Survey
Percent US MD Seniors Citing Each Factor: Ranking (cont’d)

Source: 2019 Applicant Survey
Matched Applicants*

Applications, Interviews, Programs Ranked in Preferred Specialty

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Matched Applicants*
Applications, Interviews, Programs Ranked in Alternate Specialty

Fewest applications; highest ratio of interviews & ranked programs

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey

*Applicants matched to preferred or alternate specialty
Unmatched Applicants
Applications, Interviews, Programs Ranked in Preferred Specialty

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey
Unmatched Applicants
Applications, Interviews, Programs Ranked in Alternate Specialty

Did not rank all programs where they interviewed

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE
US MD Seniors Matched and Unmatched Applications, Interviews, Programs Ranked

- Matched to Preferred Specialty (applications, interviews, programs ranked in first-choice specialty)
  - Applications: 12.9
  - Programs Ranked: 45.2
  - Interviews: 12.9

- Matched to Alternate Specialty (applications, interviews, programs ranked in alternate specialty)
  - Applications: 8.3
  - Programs Ranked: 37.8
  - Interviews: 8.6

- Unmatched (applications, interviews, programs ranked in preferred specialty)
  - Applications: 7.8
  - Programs Ranked: 65.6
  - Interviews: 7.8

- Unmatched (applications, interviews, programs ranked in alternate specialty)
  - Applications: 3.8
  - Programs Ranked: 44.4
  - Interviews: 4.2

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey

FAIR, EFFICIENT, TRANSPARENT, AND RELIABLE
Unmatched US MD Seniors
Lower Yield Per Application, Fewer Interviews, Fewer Programs Ranked

Average Number of Applications for Preferred + Alternate Specialty

- Matched
  - Interviews Granted: 26.6
  - Interviews Attended: 19.5
  - Programs Ranked: 19.0
- Unmatched
  - Interviews Granted: 15.3
  - Interviews Attended: 12.0
  - Programs Ranked: 11.6

- 36.7 more applications
- 11.3 fewer interview offers
- 7.5 fewer interviews attended
- 7.4 fewer ranked programs

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey
US MD Seniors’ Ranking Behavior

- Ranked the programs in order of my preferences
- Ranked all programs at which I interviewed
- Ranked all programs I was willing to attend
- Ranked one or more less competitive programs in preferred specialty as a “safety net”
- Ranked a mix of competitive and less competitive specialties as a “fallback plan”
- Ranked programs based on the likelihood of matching
- Ranked one or more programs where I applied but did not interview

Source: NRMP 2019 Applicant Survey
Unmatched US MD Seniors by School
Five-Year Average: 2015-2019

Average = 7.3 graduates/school
Average = 5.7% of class
Is the Match Becoming More Competitive?

13,269 more PGY-1 positions than active US MD seniors
- Even so, 623 MD seniors had no position post-SOAP
- BUT, 5,076 DOs, 2,997 USIMGs, and 4,028 IMGs matched to PYG-1 positions
- Total number of unmatched applicants declined for 4 consecutive years

US MD senior PGY-1 match rate steady at +/- 94%
- Little change in US MD senior match rates by preferred specialty
- Match rates for other applicants steady or rising

Step 1 and Step 2CK scores are rising
- Two-thirds of programs never/seldom consider applicants with a Step 1 failure
- 88% of programs never/seldom consider applicants with a Step 2CK failure
- Fewer programs require Step 2CK for interview

Little change in percentage of applications rejected without review
Questions?

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