

Impact of Length of Rank Order List on Match Results: 2002-2020 Main Residency Match

The NRMP collects data on the relationship between the average length of the rank order lists (ROL) of matched applicants and filled programs and the average length of rank order lists of unmatched applicants and unfilled programs. The data show that matched applicants and filled programs consistently have longer ROLs than unmatched applicants and unfilled programs.

The data do not take into account a number of other factors that influence the match rate of applicants and the fill rate of programs. Those factors include competitiveness of the applicant, competitiveness of the program, competitiveness of the specialty, and number of interviews completed.

NRMP advises applicants and programs to include all acceptable choices on their rank order lists. A longer ROL in no way affects the chances of matching to choices higher on the ROL.

[Program Data](#)

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Program Data

Over the period for which data are reported, the average number of ranks per position for unfilled programs is between 37-52 percent less than that for filled programs.

Program data are based on the number of positions offered. Any program with one or more positions unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed, regardless of the number of positions filled, is included in the unfilled program data. Programs that donated unfilled positions to other programs through reversions are considered unfilled, and the fill status of programs that received reverted positions is based on the original quota.

Year	Filled Programs			Unfilled Programs			
	Number and % Filled	Average Length of ROL	Average Ranks per Position	Number and % Unfilled	Average Length of ROL	Average Ranks per Position	
2002	2,747 (74.3%)	54.75	9.24	950 (25.7%)	26.94	5.03	
2003	2,748 (74.5%)	55.04	9.32	942 (25.5%)	30.24	4.89	
2004	2,936 (78.7%)	55.61	9.40	796 (21.3%)	27.93	4.85	
2005	3,005 (79.4%)	55.66	9.35	779 (20.6%)	26.63	4.90	
2006	3,159 (81.8%)	55.85	9.74	702 (18.2%)	25.31	4.65	
2007	3,360 (84.1%)	56.8	9.96	635 (15.9%)	25.23	4.97	
2008	3,410 (84.4%)	57.66	10.04	628 (15.6%)	29.5	5.37	
2009	3,601 (87.3%)	58.94	10.52	526 (12.7%)	27.56	5.68	
2010	3,614 (87.3%)	61.78	11.11	528 (12.7%)	27.68	5.64	
2011	3,660 (87.1%)	63.35	11.33	542 (12.9%)	32.51	6.28	
2012	3,767 (85.9%)	64.27	11.52	619 (14.1%)	30.52	6.63	
2013	4,029 (87.9%)	68.12	11.11	555 (12.1%)	27.31	6.56	
2014	4,041 (86.1%)	68.88	11.52	654 (13.9%)	32.42	7.28	
2015	4,093 (86.8%)	70.72	11.64	623 (13.2%)	34.38	7.13	
2016	4,191 (87.2%)	71.93	11.99	613 (12.8%)	36.01	7.54	
2017	4,398 (87.5%)	72.5	12.35	630 (12.5%)	33.78	7.39	
2018	4,623 (87.7%)	74.01	12.83	648 (12.3%)	34.02	7.46	
2019	4,759 (85.6%)	75.81	13.12	799 (14.4%)	33.92	7.6	
2020	4,975 (85.7%)	76.58	12.91	833 (14.3%)	34.61	7.52	

Applicant Data

Applicant data are based only on applicants' primary rank order lists and do not include couples.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2002	17,986 (80.4%)	7.46	4,387 (19.6%)	4.14
2003	18,382 (80.5%)	7.45	4,443 (19.5%)	4.46
2004	18,808 (78.5%)	7.44	5,156 (21.5%)	4.40
2005	19,234 (79.7%)	7.65	4,901 (20.3%)	4.48
2006	19,484 (76.4%)	7.81	6,011 (23.6%)	4.51
2007	20,042 (75.1%)	8.23	6,660 (24.9%)	4.64
2008	20,167 (74.0%)	8.52	7,094 (26.0%)	4.32
2009	20,458 (72.3%)	8.74	7,854 (27.7%)	4.46
2010	20,797 (71.9%)	9.25	8,130 (28.1%)	4.50
2011	21,363 (73.7%)	9.53	7,608 (26.3%)	4.38
2012	21,745 (73.5%)	9.75	7,855 (26.5%)	4.69
2013	24,186 (74.5%)	9.81	8,299 (25.5%)	4.58
2014	24,660 (76.1%)	10.30	7,760 (23.9%)	4.71
2015	24,918 (75.9%)	10.41	7,913 (24.1%)	4.78
2016	25,481 (76.3%)	10.60	7,903 (23.7%)	4.66
2017	26,186 (77.7%)	10.71	7,533 (22.3%)	4.24
2018	27,424 (78.9%)	10.91	7,349 (21.1%)	4.02
2019	29,044 (80.2%)	11.22	7,180 (19.8%)	4.21
2020	30,582 (81.3%)	11.29	7,050 (18.7%)	4.32

U.S. MD Seniors Data

U.S. MD seniors consistently have the highest match rate and the longest average ROLs. Although there are small year-to-year variations, about 94 percent of U.S. seniors match each year.

U.S. MD seniors data are based only on applicants' primary rank order lists and do not include couples.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs
2002	12,281 (95.6%)	7.96	587 (4.4%)	4.62
2003	12,692 (94.7%)	7.97	710 (5.3%)	5.02
2004	12,731 (93.8%)	7.99	843 (6.2%)	5.34
2005	12,975 (94.7%)	8.25	726 (5.3%)	5.29
2006	13,285 (94.7%)	8.40	748 (5.3%)	5.26
2007	13,486 (94.7%)	8.90	756 (5.3%)	5.62
2008	13,406 (95.0%)	9.26	699 (5.0%)	5.63
2009	13,560 (94.0%)	9.59	858 (6.0%)	6.27
2010	13,920 (94.0%)	10.17	896 (6.0%)	6.83
2011	14,466 (94.7%)	10.55	817 (5.3%)	6.36
2012	14,477 (95.6%)	10.93	670 (4.4%)	6.52
2013	15,099 (94.2%)	11.04	929 (5.8%)	6.58
2014	15,117 (95.0%)	11.68	796 (5.0%)	6.80
2015	15,512 (94.3%)	11.72	940 (5.7%)	7.15
2016	15,714 (94.3%)	11.97	950 (5.7%)	7.11
2017	15,950 (94.7%)	12.14	889 (5.3%)	6.61
2018	16,165 (94.7%)	12.49	911 (5.3%)	6.84
2019	16,392 (94%)	12.91	1,041 (6%)	6.90
2020	16,606 (93.8%)	12.82	1,089 (6.2%)	7.40

U.S. DO Seniors Data

This year (2020) marks the first time data have been generated for U.S. DO seniors. Participation rates have increased dramatically since 2016, largely in response to the creation of a single accreditation system that commenced in 2015. U.S. DO seniors have seen a steady increase in match rates (and length of ROL) over time, achieving nearly 91 percent in 2020.

U.S. DO seniors data are based only on applicants' primary rank order lists and do not include couples.

Year	Matched Applicants			Unmatched Applicants		
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs		
2002	887 85.2%	6.00	154 14.8%	3.78		
2003	956 86.4%	6.12	151 13.6%	3.29		
2004	1,076 85.2%	6.11	187 14.8%	3.74		
2005	1,037 83.6%	6.16	203 16.4%	3.92		
2006	976 82.2%	6.14	211 17.8%	3.87		
2007	1,082 82.0%	6.62	237 18.0%	3.92		
2008	1,304 82.9%	6.96	269 17.1%	4.15		
2009	1,352 80.6%	7.05	325 19.4%	4.78		
2010	1,365 81.2%	7.82	316 18.8%	4.52		
2011	1,494 81.6%	8.18	338 18.4%	4.73		
2012	1,664 83.4%	8.39	332 16.6%	4.80		
2013	1,894 82.6%	8.84	399 17.4%	4.85		
2014	2,030 86.1%	9.57	328 13.9%	4.98		
2015	2,180 85.5%	9.57	369 14.5%	5.08		
2016	2,220 86.2%	9.92	355 13.8%	5.63		
2017	2,706 87.0%	9.83	405 13.0%	5.45		
2018	3,453 85.9%	10.15	566 14.1%	5.73		
2019	4,567 89.1%	10.89	559 10.9%	5.69		
2020	5,531 90.8%	11.45	559 9.2%	5.81		

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