

From: Geoffrey Young [<mailto:gyoung@aamc.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 9:20 AM

Subject: Residency Application Season Begins: Essential Resources, News for Advisors from the AAMC

Dear colleagues,

AAMC wants to make you aware of some valuable resources to help advisors and students through this transitional time, and provide you with important updates that affect the entire academic medicine community.

New AAMC Data Helps Students Develop a Smart Residency Application Strategy

The AAMC has released [new data](#) that will assist U.S. medical school students and their advisors in working together to develop a smart residency application strategy. As you know, there are several important components to a comprehensive application strategy, including researching specialties, understanding one's competitiveness, and collecting information on individual programs. New AAMC research may help applicants anchor their initial thinking about one aspect of this overall application strategy: the number of residency programs they should apply to. AAMC researchers have determined that there is a point of "diminishing returns"—that varies by specialty, USMLE Step 1 score, and applicant type—at which submitting one additional application results in a lower rate of return on the applicant's likelihood of entering a residency program. Using U.S. MD applicant data from the AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®), including the number of programs an applicant applied to and the applicant's most recent USMLE Step 1 score, AAMC researchers investigated the relationship between the number of programs to which an applicant applied and subsequent entry into a residency program. This new data on the point of diminishing returns are available for the following specialties: emergency medicine; general surgery; internal medicine; obstetrics and gynecology; otolaryngology; and pediatrics.

The AAMC is sharing these findings with student applicants today, and urging those applicants to consider these findings as only one of many factors that should influence a [smart residency application strategy](#). The AAMC believes that applicants should evaluate a wide variety of information, in collaboration with their advisors, when ultimately determining how many and which programs to apply to. [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) contains information, assessments, checklists and other tools to help you and your students through the transition to residency and other stages of their medical career.

AAMC Urges Schools to Adopt the Revised Medical Student Performance Evaluation

In an effort to improve the residency application process for both medical schools and residency programs—and with the needs of the student applicant in mind—the AAMC and leading members of the medical education and graduate medical education community recommended the widespread adoption of a [new MSPE](#). The new [template](#) provides relevant, concise, and comparative data about an applicant's professional and academic performance and facilitates holistic assessment of applicants; it allows for more consistent content and terminology, is shorter and more flexible in format, and incorporates a level of standardization and transparency that promotes fairness.

In order to evaluate medical schools' plans to implement the new MSPE, the AAMC will be distributing a survey to student affairs deans later this month. We hope your institution will take the opportunity to share your feedback with us.

MyERAS Opened to Applicants

The MyERAS application and Dean's Office Workstation (DWS) are now open for the ERAS 2018 season. New tools and information for the season have been posted on the ERAS website. Updated resources include:

- [DWS User Guide](#)
- [MyERAS User Guide](#)
- [MyERAS Applicant Worksheet](#)
- ERAS [Residency](#) Applicant Checklist

The AAMC ERAS team will send additional communications throughout the season to help guide and inform applicants through the residency application process. Please contact the [ERAS HelpDesk](#) with questions.

Standardized Video Interview Operational Pilot for Emergency Medicine

If you have students applying in emergency medicine, we hope you will continue to refer to the resources available on our [website](#) to find out more about this operational pilot program with the ACGME-accredited emergency medicine community to further assess the use of the Standardized Video Interview in the residency application and selection process. The website includes: frequently asked questions; an essential guide; interview prep tips; on-demand webinars for advisors and applicants; and more. All applicants to ACGME-accredited emergency medicine residency programs are required to complete the Standardized Video Interview as a component of the ERAS 2018 application.

Best regards,

Geoff

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