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An Invitation to Collaborate: Working Together to Improve the Residency Application Process

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Association of
American Medical Colleges

Advising Perspective on the Application Process

Student Affairs responsible for guiding students in residency application process – and updating our specialty advisors

Required to know details about **nearly 30 unique specialties**

Begin advising for applications in **mid-M3 year** as students plan their M4 schedule to allow for needed exposure and LORs

Our goal is to help them **apply smart** – reasonable number of programs, right fit – and find a match

We do NOT want them to over-apply or over-interview:

- Burdens PDs
- Holistic review more difficult
- Hurts our “less competitive” students
- Worsens student debt





Snapshot of Changes

Specialty	Application System	Match	Signals	Signal Home/Away	Acuity (Altus)	ACI	SLOE	Interview Release	Interview Format
Anesthesiology	ERAS + pilot Central app- check pg	NRMP	5 Gold, 10 Silver	Yes/Yes	Prog specific			Rolling	Virtual
Child Neurology	ERAS	NRMP	3	Yes/Yes					Virtual
Dermatology	ERAS	NRMP	3 Gold, 25 Silver	Yes/Yes			Yes- not required	Nov 6, 20, Dec 4	Virtual or In Person
Emergency Medicine	ERAS	NRMP	7	Yes/Yes			yes x2	County Prog: Oct 19th	Virtual
Family Medicine	ERAS	NRMP	5	Yes/Yes				Rolling, no specific date	Virtual or In Person
Internal Medicine- Categorical	ERAS	NRMP	7	Yes/Yes	See pgms below		IM SEL X1		Virtual
Internal Medicine- Preliminary	ERAS	NRMP	7	Yes/Yes			Not required		Virtual
Med/Peds	ERAS	NRMP							Virtual
Med/Psych	ERAS	NRMP	2	Yes/Yes					Virtual?
Neurological Surgery	ERAS	NRMP	25	Yes/Yes			1-3 LOE, 1 reg	Fridays in Oct	All one or other
Neurology	ERAS + pilot Central app- check pg	NRMP	3	Yes/Yes					Virtual
Obstetrics and Gynecology	ERAS	NRMP	3 Gold, 15 Silver	Yes/Yes	NOT this year	Recommend	Yes x1	Oct 24	Virtual
Ophthalmology	SF Match	Early- SF Match			Not this year			Oct 10	Virtual
Orthopedic Surgery	ERAS	NRMP	30	Yes/Yes			eSLOR	Nov 15	Virtual or In Person
Otolaryngology	ERAS	NRMP	25	Yes/Yes				Nov 9	Virtual
Pathology	ERAS	NRMP	5						Virtual
Pediatrics	ERAS	NRMP	5	Yes/Yes				10/11/2022- then rolling	Virtual
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	ERAS	NRMP	5	Yes/Yes					Virtual
Plastic Surgery	PSCA Only vs. ERAS- Check Pgm	NRMP	Yes-Tokens-5	No			New- Yes	Nov 9	Virtual or In Person
Preventative Medicine	ERAS	NRMP	3	Yes/Yes					
Psychiatry	ERAS	NRMP	5	Yes/Yes			New Yes-optional		Virtual
Radiation Oncology	ERAS	NRMP							
Radiology-Diagnostic	ERAS	NRMP	6 Gold, 6 Silver	Yes/Yes			SI OR- Yes		

Result = Student Mistrust of Advisors



Examples:

- Students learn of new standardized LOR requirement
- New recommendations for number of away rotations
- New requirement for Altus suites/other application requirement

When students don't trust advisors/Student Affairs → panic

Panic → dysfunctional application/interview/communication strategy

Result is: 1) too many applications, 2) interview hoarding, and 3) bombarding programs with emails

Beacon of Hope During COVID

Despite generalized stress/uncertainty, brought increased communication between programs and Student Affairs

OPDA welcomed feedback from Student Affairs

Many specialties issued guidance re: applications, such as:

- Expectations for away rotations
- Expectations for LORs
- Suggested number of programs to apply to
- Synergy with virtual interviews, etc

Incredibly helpful to both Student Affairs and applicants, and hopefully to programs as well

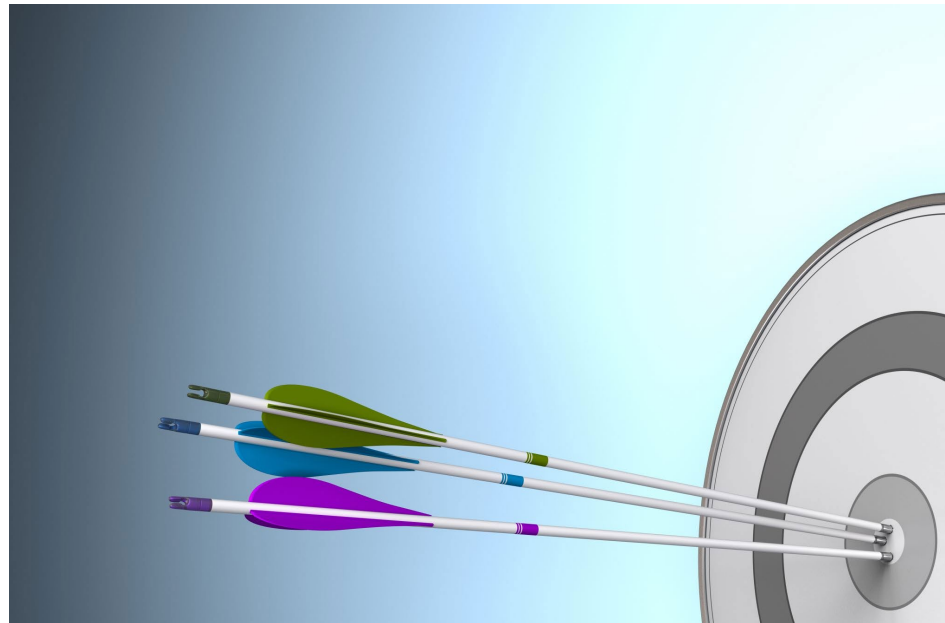
We Have Shared Goals

Match that is a good fit – alignment of values/abilities/expectations

Apply to and interview with reasonable numbers of programs

Applications genuinely represent student, no one trying to “game” the system

Applications geared to what PDs in each specialty want to see



Proposal for Collaboration

Increase communication between specialties and SA

By June 1, provide updated info for next application cycle:

- Changes to application process/dates/requirements?
- LORs and format, required vs optional?
- Away rotations suggested/limits?
- Interview invitation process, interview format?
- Screening requirements: Step 2 cut-off, publications, etc?
- Supplemental info required (e.g., Altus Suite)?
- Second look format, timing, required vs optional?
- Communication guidelines?

If possible: 1) OPDA reps can encourage respective specialties to create guidance documents; and 2) then encourage programs to comply with this guidance



Invitation for an Open Dialogue

Hope to start a long relationship in which we can collaborate to improve the T2R and application space

Recognize that there are similarly things we can likely do on our end to help improve your experience

Would love to hear your thoughts on how we can work together

AAMC GSA Leadership and Staff Working With OPDA

Marcy Verduin, MD – GSA Chair

Associate Dean for Students

University of Central Florida College of Medicine

Kathleen Kashima, PhD – GSA Previous Past Chair

Senior Associate Dean of Students

University of Illinois College of Medicine

Hilit Mechaber, MD – GSA Immediate Past Chair

Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Joel Maurer, MD – GSA Chair Elect

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Tara K Cunningham, EdD, MS – GSA Vice-Chair

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