

The Basket-Weaving Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants (Example)

Application platform: Applicants to Basket-Weaving should apply via the AAMC's ERAS application. Please visit the AAMC ERAS website for additional information.

Application deadline: Basket-Weaving Program Directors will begin reviewing applications on September 25, 2025. Applicants are expected to have at least two letters of recommendation (LORs) submitted by that date, as well as all other supporting documents (e.g., transcript, MSPE, and USMLE/COMLEX transcript). It is acceptable to add additional LORs (up to two) by October 31, 2025.

Match platform: Basket-Weaving participates in the NRMP Main Residency Match. Please visit the [NRMP website](#) for additional information.

Letters of recommendation: We recommend that applicants to Basket-Weaving include at least three LORs as part of their application (with at least two LORs submitted by the application release date). Of these LORs, at least two should be from the field of Basket-Weaving. These can be from your home institution and/or an institution where you completed an away rotation. There is no specific recommendation for a Chair letter, although individual programs may desire a Chair letter, so applicants should review program websites to which they plan to apply.

Away rotation expectations: Basket-Weaving encourages each applicant to arrange a fourth-year rotation schedule that allows them to confirm their interest in Basket-Weaving and also gain broad-based experience in other areas of medicine that interest them. If an applicant desires to complete an away rotation, then that is welcomed but not required. Applicants should limit their experiences to up to two external electives. Students without a home Basket-Weaving program may consider completing up to 3 external electives. Please be mindful of your future colleagues and equity concerns. Students will not be penalized for withdrawing from external electives in order to follow these recommendations. We encourage those individuals who choose to complete away

rotations to perform at an acting intern level and to consider requesting a meeting with the Program Director while on rotation.

Supplemental information: Individual programs may choose to participate in Altus Suites. If so, they will specify this on their website.

Signal information: Basket-Weaving applicants can signal their interest in up to six programs for interviews. Additional guidance on using program signals is available on the AAMC ERAS website, and Basket-Weaving applicants are encouraged to signal any programs at which they are most interested in interviewing, including their home institution and any other institutions at which they completed an away rotation.

Use of Step scores: Basket-Weaving applicants should ideally have both their Step 1 and Step 2CK transcripts, or COMLEX Level 1 or Level 2-CE) available for programs to review by the application opening date. The most successful applicants for Basket-Weaving generally have a Step 2CK score > 220 or a COMLEX Level 2-CE score > 500, although some programs may choose to interview applicants with Step 2CK or COMLEX Level 2-CE scores below these values.

Interview invitation process: Basket-Weaving is encouraging the use of universal interview release dates. This year, the first round of interview offers for participating programs will be on October 12, and applicants will have 72 hours to accept or decline those interviews. A second round of interview offers will be released on October 19, followed by another 72 hours in which to accept or decline the offers. After October 19, interviews will be offered on a rolling basis as programs receive cancellation notices and have additional availability to grant interviews.

Interview format: We recommend that all Basket-Weaving programs utilize virtual interviews for this application cycle.

Applicant communications: We strongly discourage the use of letters of interest prior to receiving an interview offer. We also strongly discourage the use of post-interview

communication. If an applicant would like to send a thank you note, they are welcome to do so, but they should understand that the Program Director may not respond. In addition, we strongly discourage applicants from sending any “love letters” or letters of intent to rank a program highly.

Second look/Open house planning: Attendance at Second Look or Open House events is optional and should have no impact on ranking decisions. We encourage programs to consider a voluntary lock of their rank order list prior to hosting their Second Look or Open House events in order to reinforce the optional nature of these programs for applicants.