Gearing up for the 2018 Match

Joanne Lynn MD
Competitiveness of the Match is Increasing!

• First of all, many schools are increasing their class size and there are new medical schools starting up.
• There are fewer new residency positions than the increase in medical students.
• Hence the match is growing tighter.
• 19,030+ US allopathic Seniors, plus all other categories: previous US grads, Osteopathic, and IM Grads bring the total to 43,000+ applicants competing for 31,757 spots.
Match Statistics

• **2017** - US Seniors: 94.3% matched; 78.2% in top three choices, 50.9% to their top choice

• **2016** – US Seniors: 93.8% matched; 79.2% to top three choice; 53% to their top choice

• **2015** - US Seniors: 93.9% matched; 78% in top three, 51.6 % to their top choice

• Overall PGY-1 Match rate for all participants (US Seniors, IMGs, US IMGs, Osteopathic Physicians and Prior US Grads) in 2016 Match = 75.6%
Nationwide Matches by Rank

Figure 7
Percent of Matches by Choice and Type of Applicant, 2017

Matched Applicants

U.S. Seniors
- First Rank: 50.9%
- Second Rank: 16.6%
- Third Rank: 10.7%
- Fourth Rank: 6.3%
- >Fourth Rank: 15.5%

Independent Applicants
- First Rank: 50.1%
- Second Rank: 19.3%
- Third Rank: 11.6%
- Fourth Rank: 6.8%
- >Fourth Rank: 12.2%
What about the unmatched US Seniors?

• For the past 5 years, there have been more unmatched US Seniors than PGY-1 positions.

• Unmatched US Allopathic Seniors in SOAP:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• In 2016, 93.2 percent (1,022 of 1,097) of SOAP positions were filled
Most Competitive fields

- Neurological surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, otolaryngology, and ophthalmology, urology, rad onc are the most competitive fields.

- 2012: 0 unfilled positions for Derm, Ortho, EM
- 2013: 0 unfilled positions for Ortho, PMR
- 2014: 0 unfilled – Ortho, PMR, NS, Oto, Plastic
- 2015: 0 unfilled – Derm, OB, Ortho, PMR
- 2016: 0 unfilled – Derm, Ortho, Rad Onc, Vascular Surgery
- 2017: 0 unfilled -
OSU Match 2017 – How did we do?

• 168 students participated in the Match
• 163 Matched to spots
• 5 did not obtain a residency position
  – One applied late due to personal situation
  – Two did not match in highly competitive specialties (ortho, urology)
  – Two had significant USMLE or academic issues
How about specific specialties?

- 3/4 Ophthalmology (1 matched to another specialty as back-up)
- 2/3 Dermatology (1 will do prelim/ reapply)
- 1/1 ENT; 2/3 Urology
- 8/9 Ortho, 1/1 Neurosurgery
- 16/17 Emergency Medicine
- 3/3 Radiation oncology
- All IM, FM, Radiology, Gen Surgery, Pediatrics
Do you want to see where OSU students have matched in the past?

Go to this page on the OSU COM website:

- **OSU Match Results**
Time table for Main Match

• Spring-summer: choose specialty, do Med4 rotations to make final decision, get LORs, prepare applications and personal statements
• May-August – meetings with assigned Dean’s staff advisor
• September 15, 2017 – Submit ERAS application to specific programs.
• Programs will start to contact applicants for interviews after application submitted
• Interview Sept- early Feb
• October 1, 2017 – MSPE uploaded to ERAS and released to programs
• Certify your rank list – Wed Feb 21 (?)
• Match Week – March 12 - 16
If you are struggling with your specialty choice

Can’t decide which specialty?
Not sure if you are competitive for your specialty?

• Do multiple audition rotations
• Talk to Drs. Lynn, Davis or Clinchot, Dr. Grieco (career counselor), your portfolio coach, and other faculty members
• Can always take a LOA/ extra time if you can’t decide
Strategy for Choosing Programs

• This requires an honest multidimensional assessment of your own competitiveness: grades, board scores, quintile, LORs, activities, ability to interview well in the setting of limited information

• Need a list with:
  – ‘reaches’
  – reasonable competitiveness
  – ‘safeties’
Resources

• OSU COM website
• AAMC Careers in Medicine Website
• NRMP – especially Charting the Outcomes, Program Director Survey
• FREIDA
• Deans, Portfolio coaches, department faculty, Dr. Grieco
• MSPE Review session
Careers in Medicine Website

https://www.aamc.org/cim/specialty/list/

Check the competitiveness tab to benchmark your board scores and other factors.
OSU Specialty Information Website

http://medicine.osu.edu/students/life/career_advising/specialties/pages/index.aspx

Specialty Information

For detailed information on each specialty, click on the link below. Each page will have a specialty overview, a link to the AAMC Careers in Medicine resource for that specialty*, information about the OSU department, Specialty Champions at OSU, information about the OSULCOM student interest group for that specialty, and a list of previous matches in that area.

Specialties

- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Internal Medicine-Pediatrics
- Neurology -- Adult
- Neurology -- Pediatric
- Neurological Surgery
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Radiation Medicine
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Urology

*To view the AAMC specialty pages, you must first log in to the AAMC site with your user ID and password. Once logged in, you can directly access the information via the links on our specialty pages, as long as you keep the AAMC window open.
Excellent source of information re your competitiveness:

Charting Outcomes in the Match - 2016

* Available at OSU Student Life match area or NRMP website *
- Match rates for US grads per each specialty
- Average USMLE step 1 score for seniors who match in each specialty
- Percentage of AOA members matched to each specialty
NRMP 2016 Program Director Survey – interviewing screening criteria

NRMP 2016 Program Director Survey

- USMLE Step 1 score
- LOR in specialty
- MSPE
- USMLE Step 2 Score
- Grades in required clerkships
- Personal statement
- Class rank/quartile
- Any USMILE failures
- Grades in desired specialty clerkships
- Evidence of professionalism/ethics

Survey of how residency directors in each specialty rank the importance of various applicant features.
Competitiveness for a particular specialty

• Honest self-assessment of your strengths and weaknesses
• Ask faculty member in the department about your personal competitiveness
• Beware about relying too much on one person in specialty - they may not be accurate or have difficulty with giving realistic odds
• Use national resources (see next slide)
• **Get a reality check from a dean!** Will discuss during the MSPE meeting or earlier
Do you need a parallel plan?

• Is there another way to accomplish what you want? (Ortho vs. FM-sports)
• Would a year of research, MPH help? When should it be done?
• Needs to be considered sooner in the process because of increased competitiveness of the Match
• At the MSPE meetings, we will ask everyone what they plan to do if they don’t match, if they have considered a back-up plan B.
Choosing Programs to apply to

Consider:

• Location
• Size, Patient mix
• Academic vs. Community
• Areas covered
• Competitiveness
• Call schedule, intensity
• Research opportunities
FREIDA Online

- Sponsored by the AMA
- 8,700 GME Programs
- Searchable database
  - Specialty Information
  - Program Information
  - Hospital Information

https://freida.ama-assn.org/Freida/user/viewProgramSearch.do

Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database Access System
Average numbers of applications per applicant by specialty:

- How many you apply to depends on a lot of factors including your competitiveness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>2017 Average Numbers of Applications – US Seniors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiol</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otolaryngol</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thor Surg</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Med</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM/Peds</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Med</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phys Med R</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervent Rad</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurosurg</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surg</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Med Prelim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Neuro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiology-D</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surg Prelim</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OB/GYN</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiation Onc</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Circumstances

• **Limited acceptable geographical needs**
  – I must be in a certain city because of my significant other, other family needs, hobbies, etc.

• **Couples match** – how will this affect my competitiveness in the Match?

• Couples in 2016 Match – 95.7% match rate
  – Talk to one of the deans (esp Clinchot) and Stacy if you are thinking about Couples matching. And Lora Eberhard is also available for couples’ counseling/discussions.
MSPE - What’s a MSPE?

• Medical Student Performance Evaluation
• Informal old name – ‘The Dean’s letter’
• Not a LoR, but a summary of performance during medical school – comes out of student affairs office for most medical schools.
• Format varies from school to school as does curriculum, grading, etc.
MSPE Production and Match Coordinator – Your new best friend!

- Stacy Drake Phone: 292-6450
- Stacy.Drake@osumc.edu
- is the coordinator in the Student Life Office who helps put the MSPE draft together for your review. You may contact/meet with her for advice/revisions, etc. She is in the same office with Financial Services.

- Read every email from Stacy promptly and in detail from now thru Match week – she will guide you through the Match!
You will be assigned to review your MSPE with a dean or faculty member. Some of the reviewers work primarily with students in their own specialty.
What is Discussed in the Meeting

• Review your progress Years 1-4
  – Academic
  – Research
  – USMLE
• Discuss specialty preference
• Review specialty database (see how you stack up compared with OSU students from past years who matched in your desired specialty)
• Discuss faculty connections and letters of recommendation
MSPE Review /Match advising meeting continued

- Couples Match?
- Geographic preference
- Number of applications planned
- Number of interviews scheduled
- Number of interviews planned
- Likelihood of matching in specialty
- Further assistance needed
MSPE Components

• Detailed information and a sample letter can be found on the Student Life website under Career Advising:

OSU COM Student Life MSPE

• The MSPE has 5 sections + Appendices:
  Identifying Information
  Unique Characteristics
  Academic History
  Academic Progress
  Summary
Section 1: Identifying Information

- Legal name
- Fourth-year medical student
- The Ohio State University College of Medicine
Section 2: Noteworthy Characteristics

(previous Unique Characteristics)

- You will help provide material for this section by completing the MSPE Questionnaire that will be sent to you this week.
- This section highlights your values, challenges, accomplishments; research, volunteer, and extracurricular activities; and student achievements.
- Please do not make any changes once you’ve submitted it. Email Stacy Drake if you have changes or additions. We will also make revisions at the MSPE review meeting.
Section 3: Academic History

• Initial matriculation date
  – Transfer students: Initial matriculation (prior medical school); date of transfer
  – Dual/joint/combined degree students: Initial matriculation; expected graduation
  – All require month, date, and year

• Expected graduation date…
Section 3: Academic History
Continued

• Explanation of any extensions, leaves of absence, gaps, or breaks in your educational program
• Any repeat or remediation of any course during your medical education. (This does not include single block or shelf exams or single competency failures that had to be remediated unless these resulted in a referral to ABRC).
• Meetings with a level II committee that result in an action (not meetings with student review).
• Any Professionalism lapses typically reported by HPC, ABRC
Section 4: Academic Performance

• Overall performance in LSI Part 1, including distinctions in components (i.e., H/L/S)

• Core clinical clerkships (rings) and elective rotations from Part 2
  – Listed chronologically
  – Distinctions for ring and unit; ring narrative

• If you want to challenge wording of narrative, go talk to course director.
Distinctions in Part 1/2 Courses, and Part 2 Units and Rings will be displayed:
September 2017 Clerkship Grades

• Due to the national MSPE deadline of October 1st, September grades will NOT be included on the MSPE.

• In cases where this grade is very important to a student’s application, exceptions to this rule may be made if the clerkship director can obtain evaluations quickly enough to generate the grade – we make no guarantees but will try!
Section 5: Summary

- Summative assessment of student’s comparative performance relative to peers – overall rating
- There is currently no standardization across the country of nomenclature for this final rating
- OSU uses a MSPE Cluster designation
- Cluster determination is determined by Part 1 and 2 grades
Clusters

Cluster Categories and approximate percentiles:

- Outstanding: 90 – 100
- Excellent: 70 – 89.99
- Very Good: 33 – 69.99
- Good: 10 – 32.99
- Capable: <10

- Based on overall average of Part One and Part Two Final Scores
Competencies

• As recommended by the AAMC MSPE Task Force, we will be adding an assessment of performance in the core competencies. The most likely form that we will use will be:
Remember the MSPE is a fact-based statement, not a letter of recommendation.
Scheduling your review

• First step is to answer Beverly Trout’s email inquiry about what specialty you are going into, etc. – this will be sent out soon
• If entering “early” Match or highly competitive field, email Beverly Trout to let her know
• Early Match candidates given priority for earlier meetings. Also those with academic challenges.
• You will be assigned to review with a member of the Dean’s staff.
• Come 15 minutes early to review for accuracy/proofread your MSPE. We can do edits of unique characteristics during this time.
• Not permitted to take a copy with you
Introducing yourself: Photo/Appearance, CV and Personal Statement
Yes – it does make you more memorable

BUT: be careful what it reflects….
Sample OSU Senior Photos – they Matched!
Curriculum Vitae/ ERAS Application

• Simply put: Follow the Directions
• Medical Education
• Education
  – include study abroad or post bacc or other degrees
• Membership and Honorary/Professional Societies
  – Member? Officer? Elected? Appointed?
Hobbies and Interests

• Here is where you can list interest group participation as a member (rather than a leader)

• Add any other interests that could prompt a discussion that you would like to generate in an interview.

• If you don’t want to talk about it, don’t list it.
  – NRA advocacy group, PETA membership

• Foreign Language Fluency?
Other Awards and Accomplishments

• Any merit scholarships count as an award
• Any Course/Clerkship Honors or Letters of Commendation can be listed here
  – FYI: Not “letter of accommodation”
Personal Statement

- Program Directors read lots and lots of these. Make yours stand out (for good reasons, not bad or strange reasons).

- Tell a story that made an impact on you and it will make an impact on them.
  - A patient (use initials) that provoked an emotion in you
  - Tie it in to why you are pursuing the career you have chosen.

- Avoid “why I wanted to be a doctor”– that got you into medical school. Be more specific now.
Personal Statement

• Do not go over 1 page. I mean it.
  – No matter how good the story, it isn’t worth it.
    “Brevity is the soul of wit”

• Do not rehash what is on your CV unless it is part of the story:
  – “so then I entered the lab where I soon learned all about PCR” is boring…
  – “before my eyes, the result appeared. Now I knew what this patient had” is not.

  – We will send out more information a bit later
Personal Statement: BEWARE

- Stereotypic descriptions
  - “feisty” “swarthy” “cute” (except maybe re kids)
- Disparaging medical speak
  - “pimping”, “fleas”, “OSH”
- Misspellings or grammatical errors
  - Be careful of their/there/they’re, you’re/your
- Gimmicks…. “D is for Dermatology”
- Plagiarism – don’t

Don’t wait until the last minute!

Please have someone else look at your statement to help identify these things: Portfolio Coach at least should proofread
Personal Statement

- IF you have a red flag, it is wise to discuss briefly
  - Never blame someone else for your failure
    “the resident was incompetent and the clerkship director hated the fact that I reported her to the University President”
  - Accept personal responsibility and describe how you learned from it.
    “The failure of my Medicine shelf exam provided me with the opportunity to rethink how to learn in the clinical environment. Since then, I have excelled on all of my exams.”
- Please talk with a Dean about how to address these issues.
Letters of Recommendation (LoR)

• 3 clinical letters from folks who have worked with you. Some specialties want all from that specialty – Ortho, Emergency
• Learn from your specialty faculty advisors what is expected for your specialty
• If you have a research mentor – that could be a fourth letter
General Facts about LORs

• Choose letter writers who know you personally and can speak to your clinical performance.

• **Make an appointment** to personally meet with and ask for letter. Ask your writer if they feel they can write a strong letter of recommendation. **Bring a CV** and personal statement with you. This doesn’t need to be the finished product, but it should be a good draft. Help your letter writer – make some suggestions about things that make you stand out.

• Thank your LOR writers later – and give them follow-up about where you matched
Departmental LORs

Some specialties require a departmental letter
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Emergency Medicine sLOR
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- IM/Peds requires both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics

For the most part, departmental letters will be submitted later than other recommendation letters. Be sure your department is aware of your earliest program deadline.
Step 2 CK Deadline Nov 30

• If you fail and have to retake, must have a passing score back by Feb 21 (date that we must certify that you are eligible for the Match because you are on track to meet graduation requirements).
Step 2 CS Deadline Sept 9

• Do not underestimate this exam!
• Schedule exam early to get the date you desire
• Review the information on the Step 2 CS website in detail
  – Pay attention to the DIRECTIONS for the test
  – Review example cases and notes
• Review the articulate located here:
  – Https://vitals.osumc.edu/articulate/5575/presentation_html5.html
• Do a practice session in the Clinical Skills Center
  – Ideally 4-6 weeks before your exam to allow time for feedback and to initiate any necessary changes
  – The practice should be a dress rehearsal for the real exam

USMLE Step 2 CS 17-18 Reporting Schedule
HOST Program
(Helping Our Students Travel)

Alumni volunteer to support Ohio State medical students during residency interview process: Lodging, Meals, Advice

Request a host in the cities of your interviews at least 2 weeks in advance of travel.

- Advance-notice increases chances of receiving a HOST
- Fill out one form per city/interview: go.osu.edu/HOST
- Limit of 3 requests per student

Complete a brief post-experience survey & send a picture with your host

Questions: medalum@osumc.edu