Preparation for the 2017 Match

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Information

• First Overview
• Make sure that you are familiar with Stacy Drake
• You will have individual advising sessions in the summer.
• Additional whole class session on Interviewing in later August
• Panels
Time table for Main Match

• Spring-summer: choose specialty. If not decided, do Med4 rotations to gain further experience from which to make your decision

• Summer – prepare application, request LORs, meet with dean’s staff advisor

• September – January interview

• February – submit rank list of programs

• March - Match
Preparing for the Match

• Understand the big picture of the Match – increasing competitiveness for positions
• Assess your interests – choosing specialty or specialties
• Assess personal competitiveness
• Know and use resources
• Ask for help and advice early and often!
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 a tighter match.
• 18,000+ US allopathic Seniors, plus all other categories: previous US grads, Osteopathic, and IM Grads bring the total to 42,000+ applicants competing for 30,750 spots.
Match Statistics

- **2016** – US Seniors: 93.8% matched; 79% to top three choices
- **2015** - US Seniors: 93.9% matched; 78% in top three, 51.6% to their top choice
- **2014** - US Seniors: 94.4% matched; 81% in top three choices, 54% to their top choice

**What about the unmatched US Seniors?**

In 2014, 609 accepted offers of residency positions in the SOAP and 412 had no position after SOAP.

In 2015, 653 US Seniors took positions in SOAP.
OSU Match 2016 – How did we do?

• 185 students will graduate
• 182 Matched to spots
• 3 graduating without a residency position
  – One did not apply due to family illness
  – One did not apply until end of season
  – One did not match despite applying on time.
How about specific specialties?

- 8/8 Ophthalmology
- 5/5 Dermatology
- 4/4 ENT; 5/6 Urology
- 4/6 Ortho, 2/3 Neurosurgery
- 15/16 Emergency Medicine
- 1/1 Radiation oncology
- All IM, FM, Neuro, Radiology, Anesthesiology, Pediatrics
General Surgery

• 8/13 obtained categorical positions
• 3 who applied for categorical obtained surgery prelims during the main match and 2 during the SOAP
• Other prelim surgery-
  – 1 who only jumped into match during SOAP
  – Several who did not match in Ortho, NS
Choosing a specialty

• A career decision carries with it a lifetime commitment to care for specific types of patients in specific ways
• One of the most difficult decisions in medical school
• Seek counsel from many sources to get a broad perspective
Factors to consider

- Content: Types of diseases, patients and interactions, duties of the job
- Lifestyle – hours, call, financial reimbursement
- Geographic location
- Training requirements
- Career opportunities
- Reimbursement
Help for specialty choice decision – talk to multiple advisors

- Departmental Faculty – seek out the known student champions in each area
- Interns/ Residents / Fellows
- Med 4s – who are still here, they will be gone soon!
- Dean’s staff – good for big picture/ reality check
- Friends / Family

Websites:
- AAMC Careers in Medicine
- OSU student life – career advising — specialty information
Strategy for Choosing Programs

• This again requires an honest multidimensional assessment of your own competitiveness – grades, board scores, quintile, LORs, activities, ability to interview well

• Need a list with:
  – ‘reaches’
  – reasonable competitiveness
  – ‘safeties’
Most Competitive fields

- Neurological surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, dermatology, otolaryngology, and ophthalmology were the most competitive fields.
- Diagnostic Radiology was less competitive in 2015

- 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
NRMP 2014 Program Director Survey – interviewing screening criteria

- Step 1 score
- LOR in specialty
- MSPE
- Step 2 Score
- Personal statement
- US MD Grad
- Grades in required clerkships
- Gaps in medical education
- Honors in clinical clerkships
- Perceived commitment to specialty
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
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
Assess Competitiveness continued

- **2014 Residency Directors Survey:**
  - Also posted at the OSU COM Student Life > career advising > tool kit section
  - Gives survey results of how residency directors in each specialty rank the importance of various applicant features:
    - MSPE, Letters of recommendation, grades in required clerkships, grades in desired specialty rotation, class rank/cluster, step 1 and 2 scores, medical school reputation, personal statement, research experience, etc.

- **OSU Match data base** - maintained in the Associate Deans Office (OSU student Match performance over past 8 years)
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
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>Average Number of Applications</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiol</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedics</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otolaryngol</td>
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<td>Thor Surg</td>
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<td>Emergency</td>
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<td>Pathology</td>
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<td>Urology</td>
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<td>Family Med</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal Med</td>
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<td>Radiation Onc</td>
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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 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’
• 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!
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: Unique Characteristics

• You provided this material in the MSPE Questionnaire (on VITALS)
• This section highlights your values, healthcare 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 can also make revisions when we meet.
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 that had to be remediated.)*

• 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.

- Dr. Davis will tell you about academic clusters in a bit.
September 2016 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!
Remember the MSPE is a fact-based statement, not a letter of recommendation
General Facts about LORs

• At least one to two letters must come from faculty members in the chosen specialty.
• Some specialties want all letters from that specialty (like EM, ortho)
• 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.
More Facts about LORs

• If a faculty member volunteers to write a letter, always say yes.
• Add research or volunteer preceptors as a 4th letter only.
• Thank your LOR writers later – and give them follow-up about where you matched.
Departmental LORs

Departments that 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.
Do I need a chair’s LOR?

Specialties that may require a Chair’s letter:

- OB (all students meet with chair, residency director, and clerkship director)
- Surgery (may substitute Clerkship Director or Residency Director)
- Urology
- PM&R does not write a Chair’s letter unless the student worked directly with the Chair.