



American University of the Caribbean  
School of Medicine

# OSPD Match Corner

*Office of Student Professional Development*

*Residency Application Process for the 2021 Match*



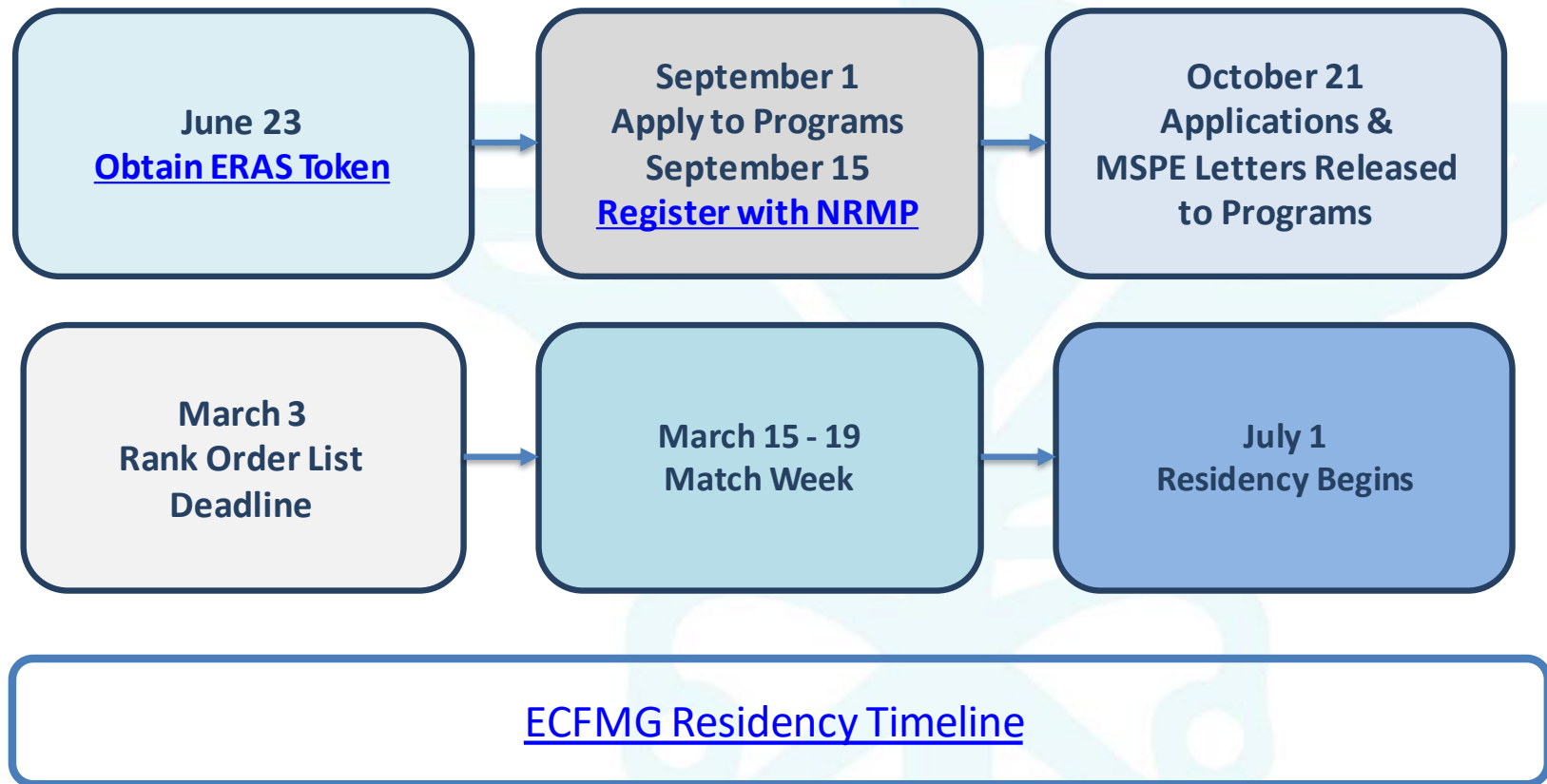
## Today's Agenda

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- ✓ Residency Application Process and Timeline
- ✓ Researching and Applying to Programs
- ✓ Scheduling Interviews
- ✓ Supporting Documents including the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) Letter
- ✓ Match Strategy
- ✓ Specialty Recommendations Due To Covid-19
- ✓ Target USMLE Scores
- ✓ ECFMG Certification
- ✓ Residency Interview
- ✓ Resources



## Residency Application Process Overview





## 2021 Match | Important Dates

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- April 1** Submit Noteworthy Characteristics for Review and request a Physician Match Advisor
- June 23** ERAS Token Available for 2021 Match
- July 1** Request MSPE Letter (Must submit Noteworthy Characteristics)
- September 1** Applicants may begin submitting applications to residency programs
- September 14-18** MSPE Letters are sent to students to review for factual errors
- September 15** Registration for NRMP opens
- September 19** Target date to take Step 2 CK in order to have results prior to applications being released on October 21
- October 12** All MSPE Letters and Medical School Transcripts are uploaded to ECFMG/ERAS
- October 21** Submitted applications and MSPE letters are released to programs for review
- February 3** Deadline to take Step 2 CK in order to receive score prior to ROL deadline to be eligible for the Main Match
- March 3** NRMP Deadline for Late Registration, Rank Order List certification, or to withdraw from the Match
- March 15-19** Match Week
- July 1** Residency begins for most programs



## Researching Programs | June - August

Consider your personality and short and long term goals.

List programs in which you're interested and narrow down by researching program websites

Look for programs that have taken IMGs and match USMLE requirements, if applicable

Refer to Residency Placement Lists from: [AUC](#) | [Ross](#) | [SGU](#) | [SABA](#) | [UMHS](#) | [AUA](#)

Refer to [FRIEDA Residency Database](#), [ACGME website](#) and [ERAS 2021 Participating Specialties and Programs](#)



## Applying to Programs | September 1 – October 21

Review online presence to ensure it promotes an image of professional and mature physicians

In a typical application year, most students will apply to 100-200 programs

Use Residency Fee Calculator to estimate costs of applying  
(150 programs cost approx. \$3600)

Goal is to get at least 10 interviews

Budget \$3k - \$5K for applications costs



## Interviewing with Programs | October - January

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**Try to avoid interviewing at your top choice program until you have completed at least one interview**

*Nervous and less confident early on, so use programs in which you are not as interested in to improve skills*

**No consensus if better to interview early or late in season**

*Early because programs are fresh and excited about meeting applicants.  
Late so you'll be more memorable.*

**Remember:** Program Coordinator organizes the interview schedule and is closest to the Program Director – be nice!



# Residency Application Supporting Documents

- ✓ Letters of Recommendation (LoRs) – provided by student/letter writer
- ✓ USMLE Transcript – provided by student
- ✓ Personal Statement – provided by student
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae (CV) – provided by student
- ✓ Photograph – provided by student
- ✓ ECFMG Status Report
- ✓ Medical School Transcript – provided by Registrar
- ✓ MSPE Letter – provided by OSPD (See Sample) (Submit request by July 1, 2020)

[ECFMG Supporting Documents Overview](#)





## Letter of Recommendation (LOR)

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**Need at least one LOR  
in the specialty or  
specialties in which  
you apply**

**No limit to number of  
LORs students can  
submit to ERAS, but  
can only assign four  
to each program**

**Letter writers are the  
only individuals who  
can upload an LOR via  
AAMC's portal if the  
student has waived  
his or her right to  
view the LOR**

[Letter of Recommendation Portal \(LoRP\)](#)



## MSPE Letter | Rotation Comments

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Clerkship: Psychiatry Core

Weeks: 6 -- From: 6/26/2017 to 8/4/2017

St. John's Episcopal Hospital- South Shore, Far Rockaway, NY

Overall Evaluation: Superior

Evaluator: Dr. David Alder

*"Outstanding student, enthusiastic learner. A pleasure to teach. Valuable team member."*

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Clerkship: Pediatrics Core

Weeks: 6 -- From: 9/26/2016 to 11/4/2016

Providence Hospital, Southfield, MI

Overall Evaluation: Superior

Evaluator: Dr. James Landers

*"Superb student, she will do very well in her chosen area of medicine (I'm hoping for Pediatrics!). She was always punctual, and was willing to help the office flow smoothly, often without prompting. She has an excellent interaction with patients, parent, and staff. She was well studied in Pediatrics, and very eager to investigate and learn the curriculum."*

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[MSPE Letter Sample](#)



## MSPE Letter | COVID-19 Additions

### Academic History

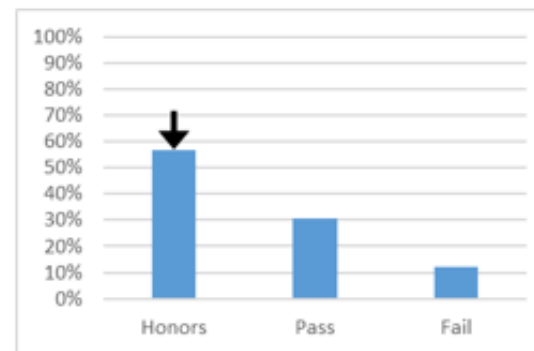
Jane Doe's academic experience **was** affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; please see the Academic Progress section for more detail.

**Clerkship: Internal Medicine (Core)**  
**Clerkship Grade: Exceeds Expectations**  
**Overall Grade: Honors**

**Weeks: 8 – 1/27/2020 to 3/27/2020**  
**CHS/GMHETC, Miami, FL**  
**Evaluator: Dr. Walker**

*This rotation was modified due to our school suspending medical students' clinical contact due to COVID-19. The Overall Grade for Core Clerkships is based on the student's clinical performance during the rotation unless he or she had multiple attempts on NBME subject exam and/or scored "Below Expectations" for professionalism. In those cases, "Pass" is the highest grade students can attain.*

*She will be an asset to any IM residency program. She has an amazing work ethic, clinical skills, and strong medical knowledge. She went above and beyond and made herself available to every learning experience.*





## MSPE Letter | Summary Sheet

**At least two  
community service  
activities**

**At least one activity in  
a leadership position**

Ms. Doe has thrived at American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine. After adapting to student life in a foreign country, she pursued and excelled in clinical clerkship rotations at geographically diverse sites across the United States. Throughout her time at AUC, Ms. Doe has benefitted from dedicated faculty and a student-centered approach to medical education and training.

Ms. Doe received honors in multiple core clerkships and participated in multiple community service activities while serving in a leadership role.

I am pleased to recommend Jane Doe for post-graduate training.



## Match Strategy

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- Competitive for specialty ([Charting Outcomes in the Match for IMGs](#))
- Parallel Specialty if not competitive for preferred specialty
- Apply to sites where you rotated
- Strong LORs (at least in preferred specialty)
- Apply to sites in your home state
  - Mention you are from the area in personal statement
- Apply broadly
  - Different geographic regions, different types of programs (community/university)
- Consider going for the 2022 Match and opting into the 80-week program if you won't have an LOR in your preferred specialty or CK completed by Oct. 21



## USMLE® Step 1 Performance for 2017, 2018 and 2019 Classes

Specialty	# Residency Placements	% Matched into Specialty	AUC Mean	IMGs Mean*
			Step 1	
Anesthesiology	17	3.1%	232	231
Dermatology	1	0.2%	N/A**	238
Emergency Medicine	18	3.3%	238	232
Family Medicine	150	27.5%	211	211
Internal Medicine	202	37.0%	226	224
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	3	0.5%	227	224
Neurological Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	236
Neurology	9	1.6%	229	227
Ob/Gyn	12	2.2%	231	229
Orthopedic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	239
Pathology	5	0.9%	224	226
Pediatrics	40	7.3%	220	221
Plastic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**
PM&R	2	0.4%	225	226
Psychiatry	29	5.3%	219	224
Radiology-Diagnostic	9	1.6%	248	239
Surgery-General	13	2.4%	242	237
Surgery-Vascular	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**

\*Source: [2018 NRMP's Charting Outcomes in the Match for International Medical Graduates](#) \*\* Data too few to report



## USMLE® Step 2 CK Performance for 2017, 2018 and 2019 Classes

Specialty	# Residency Placements	% Matched into Specialty	AUC Mean	IMGs Mean*
			Step 2 CK	
Anesthesiology	17	3.1%	242	237
Dermatology	1	0.2%	N/A**	246
Emergency Medicine	18	3.3%	244	241
Family Medicine	150	27.5%	225	225
Internal Medicine	202	37.0%	235	234
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	3	0.5%	239	233
Neurological Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	242
Neurology	9	1.6%	230	234
Ob/Gyn	12	2.2%	239	238
Orthopedic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	245
Pathology-Anatomical and Clinical	5	0.9%	232	230
Pediatrics	40	7.3%	231	232
Plastic Surgery	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**
PM&R	2	0.4%	218	232
Psychiatry	29	5.3%	236	227
Radiology-Diagnostic	9	1.6%	250	242
Surgery-General	13	2.4%	247	245
Surgery-Vascular	0	0.0%	N/A	N/A**

\*Source: [2018 NRMP's Charting Outcomes in the Match for International Medical Graduates](#) \*\* Data to few to report



# Specialty Recommendations Due To COVID-19

## General Consensus

- Limit and do not require away rotations -- exceptions can be made for students who do not have the opportunity to rotate in a specific specialty at their home institution, or are local to the area
- Highly recommend all interviews be held virtually
- Consider students who may have had their exams delayed due to the pandemic and may have not had the opportunity to secure a certain number of letters of recommendation prior to applications being released

[AAMC's Page For All Specialties' Response to COVID-19](#)





## Residency Interview Questions | Examples

### Start Practicing Now!

- ✓ Tell me about yourself
- ✓ Why are you interested in this program?
- ✓ What challenges will our specialty face in the next 10 years?
- ✓ Why did you choose your specialty?
- ✓ What are your long-term goals?
- ✓ Why do you want to be a physician?
- ✓ How do you handle stress?

Common interview questions can be found in [AUC's Match Handbook](#)  
[AAMC's Virtual Interviews: Tips for Medical School Applicants](#)



## ECFMG Certification: Step 2 CS Update

### Eligibility for All Pathways to Meet CS Requirement

- Have not already passed Step 2 CS
- Are not barred by ECFMG from pursuing certification
- Are not barred by USMLE from taking a Step or Step Component from August 1, 2020 to January 31, 2021
- Have not failed a USMLE Step or Step Component (Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 2 CS) two or more times
- Have taken or been registered for any USMLE Step or Step Component since January 1, 2018

[ECFMG Certification Requirements for 2021 Match](#)



## ECFMG Certification: Step 2 CS Update

### Pathway for AUC Students

- Applicant's medical school is currently accredited by an agency recognized by WFME
- Date of graduation must be on or after January 1, 2018
- An authorized school official must attest to applicant's clinical skills
  - Students who have not yet passed the USMLE Step 2 CS, the Kaplan CS Practice Exam (CSPE), or the Becker Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) are required to take and pass the Kaplan CSPE in order to graduate
  - This new standardized CSPE requirement will allow AUC to attest to each student's level of clinical skill and ensure your readiness for residency



# ECFMG Certification: Step 2 CS Update

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## English Language Proficiency Assessment

- Applicants who pursue one of the following pathways will be required to attain a satisfactory score on an English proficiency assessment
- All applicants, regardless of citizenship, will be required to satisfy this requirement
- Details regarding this requirement also will be announced very soon



## Additional Resources

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### ECFMG

*Introduction to Application Process*

### ECHO

*Residency Application Support from ECFMG*

### NRMP

*How the Match works, Rank Order List and Residency Data*

### OSPD Web Page

*AUC and non-AUC resources, MSPE Letter, Personal Statement and CV Samples*

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[Schedule an Appointment](#) | [ospd@aucmed.edu](mailto:ospd@aucmed.edu)