

Capstone for Impact Submission | GY2019

Project Title: Applying for Residencies in More Than One Specialty

Student Name(s): Karra, Lakshmi

Advisor Names(s):

Branch: Patients & Populations

Path of Excellence: N/A

Handover/Transition:

If this project can be continued by another UMMS student, you may contact them at the following email address/phone number (N/A if project cannot be handed over): **N/A**

Summary:

My project explores facts and opinions regarding medical students who apply for residencies in more than one specialty. This comes from my experience dual-applying, and facing difficulty finding good mentors and advisors for this process. This project has two aims. The student-focused aim attempts to quantify the number of students who dual-apply, the reasons for dual applications, and the difficulties faced by students. The program-focused aim attempts to survey program directors to evaluate their knowledge and opinion of applicants who have dual-applied. The goal of this project is to provide students with more concrete, if anecdotal, advice should they happen to dual-apply.

Methodology:

I plan to survey my classmates, asking if any of them dual-applied, and if so, the reasons for doing so and any difficulties/stresses faced. I also am evaluating national Match statistics. The most crucial component of my methodology will be to survey program directors at Michigan. Since I myself dual-applied, I have not started doing this yet, but plan to as soon as Match Day is over :) I hope to have 30-minute meetings with as many PDs or APDs as possible and ask them the following questions:

- Do you have any way of knowing if applicants have dual-applied?
- If you did know an applicant dual-applied, what would be your initial thoughts? What additional information would you want to know? What information would you attempt to seek out?

Reflection/Lessons Learned:

Despite not yet surveying classmates or PDs/APDs, I have already spent a considerable amount of time thinking about this issue. Overall, I feel that applicants should have as much information as possible as they apply for the Match, so that they can make well-informed decisions. When it comes to dual-applicants, there is unfortunately very little published information, and I had trouble finding good mentors/advisors within the medical school. This tends to lead to rumors, fear-based advice, and insecurity, all of which contribute to stress and stress-based decision-making during the application process. I don't have a lot of insight into the program directors' point of view, however, and am eager to learn more about the pressures residency programs face in evaluating potential future residents.