

HOW TO INTERVIEW

for a

Residency Position

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**EASTERN VIRGINIA
MEDICAL SCHOOL**
ESTABLISHED 1973

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Why

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Do You

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Want To Be A Surgeon?

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A Practicing Surgeon Is A

Caring physician

Skilled technician

Effective communicator

Dedicated teacher

What Can You Expect?

Long hours

Exciting employment

Rigorous training

Camaraderie

Potential conflict career
vs. family

Intangible rewards

Lots of new information

Job satisfaction

Competitiveness of Surgery - General

1998 MATCH

254 Programs

1,024 *Categorical* Positions

969 *PGY-1* Positions

| | <i>U.S. Applicants</i> | <i>Total Applicants</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Categorical</i> | | |
| Ranked positions | 9,805 | 11,947 |
| Matched positions | 853 | 1,000 |
| Match rate | 83.3% | 97.7% |
| <i>PGY-1 only</i> | | |
| Ranked positions | 1,071 | 2527 |
| Matched positions | 391 | 541 |
| Match Rate | 40.4% | 55.8% |

National Resident Matching Program. NRMP DATA, 1998.

Eastern Virginia Medical School

SURGERY - GENERAL

204 Applicants (*Am. Med. Grads.*)

5 Categorical positions

77 Interviewed

35 Ranked

5 Matched categorical

Eastern Virginia Medical School

SURGERY - GENERAL

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 558 | Applicants | <i>(American & International)</i> |
| 5 | Categorical positions | |
| 77 | Interviewed | |
| 35 | Ranked | |
| 5 | Matched categorical | |

How To Begin?

Get information

Set priorities

Getting Information

Department Chairman

Selected department faculty

Senior medical students already matched

Residents in your chosen specialty

Apply to several programs

Interview at 10-12

Setting Priorities

CONSIDER WHAT SUITS YOU

Type of environment

Size of program

Surrounding community

Academic Program

May be compatible with goals
after residency

May support research interests

May have subspecialty strengths
applicable for you

Other Types of Programs

Hospital—usually smaller, more individualized

Community based—can offer broad-based training

Size of the Programs

Bigger may not be better

Compare # of residents with # of inpatient admissions

Look at varying sizes—where do you fit

Surrounding Community

Size

Crime rate

Employment opportunities for spouse

Cultural opportunities

Distance from families

Importance of Community

Depends on family situation

Little time for outside activities at first

Application

Process

Personal Statement

Why surgery

What you want in a residency program

Long range career goals

Research, if any

Personal Statement

(Continued)

Unusual hobbies or accomplishments

Brief autobiographical sketch

Simple, brief, one page—conservative style

Letters of Recommendation

Most programs want 3

More are not necessary

Department Chairman important

Others who know you well

How to Get Letters

Set appointment in late summer

Bring CV and personal statement

Does faculty know you well enough
to write positive letter?

Getting Letters

(Continued)

Provide disk with addresses or whatever is required by your school

Dean's office will require the same

Thanks to those who wrote letters and those who mailed them

Other Items to Include

USMLE Scores

- Date when passed
- Scores important; include if requested

AOA—follow up later if necessary

Photo—helpful for post-interview
identification

"The Interview Trail"

BREAK OUT THE VISA

Planning and Scheduling Tips

Block about 6 weeks if possible

December / January / February
potential for Surgery

Application Follow-Up

Application not screened until complete

Follow up on letters of recommendation
—received or not??

Scheduling Interviews

Specific interview dates set by programs

Avoid making "special requests"
(i.e. alternate date, leave early, arrive late)

Schedule "less desirable" interviews first—
you can practice

Travel Tips—Saving \$\$

Financial assistance available at your school?

Alumni Directory—maybe grads will offer accommodations

Ask secretaries at programs for suggestions

Drive when possible

Frequent flyer??

Consider Amtrak or Trailways

Other Travel Tips

Arrive night before for morning appointment

Punctuality is critical—allow time

Plan to spend most of the day

Preparation Tips

Practice with faculty, family, friend

Take along printed material sent by program

Review all printed material prior to interview

Arrive with some knowledge of program

Confirm or cancel—be considerate

Never be a "no show"

Dress appropriately and conservatively

Importance Of Interview

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE

After selection for interview, this is your **only time** to make impression

Some nervousness expected

What Interviewers Are Looking For In A Resident

SUBJECTIVELY.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Maturity | Enthusiasm |
| Articulateness | Interests |
| Professionalism | Responsibility |
| How you fit in | Sense of teamwork |

What Interviewers Want To Know

OBJECTIVELY.....

Career goals

Interests

Research

Why they should choose you

What To Ask Your Interviewer

Program's accreditation status
—citations??

Pass rate on ABS Exams

Graduates—fellowships??

Anticipated changes in program

Inservice performance/requirements

Education/didactic curriculum

What Your Interviewer May Ask You

Interests outside of medicine

Long-term goals

What are you looking for in a program

Why this program interests you

What Your Interviewer May Ask You

(Continued)

Who recommended this program

How did you learn of this program

What can you offer

"Tell me about yourself"

Turnoffs

Sloppy appearance

Tardiness

Argumentative nature

Rudeness to staff

Strong prejudices

Over aggressiveness

More Turnoffs

Condemnation of other specialties

Mention of "connections"

Noting influential individuals

Looking at watch during interview

Post Interview Suggestions

Get a contact—resident's phone number

Might arrange follow-up visit

Record impressions immediately
—you'll forget

Consistent way to record info

Write thank you notes

Talk more with residents

Best Source of

R E S I D E N T S

Accurate
Information

When Ready To Rank

Get advice again—Department
Chairman, faculty

Review recorded program information

Don't ignore your "gut" feeling

Talk with alumni from your school in
programs that interest you

Call or write programs which most
interest you and let them know