EMERGENCY MEDICINE
A STUDENT GUIDE TO RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS

Evaluation Categories

1. **Academic Performance**
   USMLE 1 & 2, core clerkship grades, honorary memberships and awards

2. **Commitment to EM**
   Medic experience, EM scribe experience, Medical Reserve Corps experience, EM leadership, EM scholarship

3. **Leadership**
   Committee membership, interest group leadership, or community or organization leadership

4. **Scholarship**
   Peer-reviewed publications, oral presentations, non-peer-reviewed presentations

5. **Service**
   School & community committee membership, service organization participation

Important Websites
Click on the following to access the web pages to:

- **ERAS Timeline** – www.cordem.org
- **AAMC SVI Guide** – www.aamc.org
- **EM Applicant Guide** – www.aamc.org
- **EM Student Handbook** – www.saem.org
- **EM Advising Resources** – www.cordem.org
- **Additional Resources** – www.cordem.org
FAQs

What does the successful EM residency applicant look like?
- Possesses objective achievements in all five student evaluation categories with significant achievements in two or more categories
- Well-considered and well-articulated professional goals, supported by past experience and apparent on CV or in personal statement
- USMLE 1 and/or 2 at or above the national average
- A character of professionalism displayed by being present, willing, honest, and kind

How do I plan for a successful EM rotation?
Before Day 1...
- Begin reading Emergency Medicine Pretest and/or Case Files
- Review CDEM Clerkship Student Primer
- Review CORD Student Resources

During the Rotations...
- Be present: 90% of success is showing up
- Be willing: Ask and learn how to be valuable to the team on every shift; learn to anticipate team needs
- Be honest: Teamwork requires trust, which must be earned
- Be kind: Teamwork requires healthy professional relationships
- Study for the NBME exam every day after shifts

How do I plan for a successful EM residency interview day?
Before Interview Day...
- Prepare for content: Review common interview questions and develop polished personal answers
- Prepare for the setting: Review the bios of the faculty, find common interests, and learn program themes and strengths
- Prepare for logistics: Allow extra time to arrive to all hosted events (with a margin), and prepare professional attire and appearance

On Interview Day...
- Be calm and confident – you’ve prepared well for the content, setting, and logistics
- Be present, willing, honest, and kind with everyone, always.
- Be appreciative with everyone and don’t criticize anyone or any place.

How many visiting student EM rotations should I attend?
Plan for one away EMED rotation at an EM program with an ACGME-accredited residency program. Consider a second away if: you’re couples matching, you have firm geographic constraints, or you have a marginal application (these should be discussed explicitly with GW EM leadership).

How many LORs will I need?
Three. Two Standardized Letters of Evaluation (SLOEs) from EM rotations (GW + 1 Away), and an additional letter from someone who can speak to your professional potential and/or personal character.

How many EM residency programs should I apply to?
Start with 35 programs. We will recommend that you dial up or down from that number depending on regional preference, application strength, and program characteristics.

How many EM residency programs should I interview with?
Plan for 13 EM residency interviews. We may recommend you dial up or down from this number depending on regional preference, application strength, and program characteristics.

How many EM residency programs should I rank?
Rank every program that you would rather go to than be left unmatched (rank all programs, barring rare and extenuating circumstances).