

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

The following highlights information specifically relevant to applying to **Orthopedic** programs. Students should refer to the [OSA Residency Application Manual](#) for general application information and guidance.

### Advising Team

#### OSA Advisor

**Kerri A. Thom, MD, MS\* (Required)**

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*\*Your OSA Advisor will also be the person who compiles your MSPE. Students may seek advice from any OSA Dean at any time; to request an alternative for the MSPE you can make a request with any OSA Dean.*

#### Specialty Advisor(s)

**Frank Henn, MD (Required)**

Primary Orthopedic Surgery Specialty Advisor

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**Natalie Danna, MD**

Residency Program Director

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**Vicky Norton**

Residency Coordinator

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### Specialty Guidelines and Resources for Applicants

[American Orthopedic Association \(AOA\) Residency Application Resource Center](#)

[2025 2026 Residency Application Cycle Recommendation Guidelines](#)

*\*Per Orthopedica Faculty: "This is not a consensus statement"; recommends up to 4 away rotations and states the eSLOR or SLOR are not hard requirements.*

### Program Type – Preliminary/Transitional Year Requirements

Orthopedic surgery programs are Categorical (PGY1); Preliminary/Transitional year is NOT required.

### Scheduling Considerations

Students should review scheduling resources available in the OSA Academic Handbook and the OSA Residency Application Manual.

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All students should plan to do a home Orthopedic Rotation (Sub-Internship) and up to 4 Away rotations in Orthopedic Surgery. *\*Note that the AOA Residency Application Cycle Recommendations for the 2025 Match Year recommend no more than 3 away rotations; however, Dr. Henn feels that this is not a consensus statement, and he recommends up to 4 aways.*

There are multiple possible options for a second home sub-internship; popular choices include: Neurocritical Care and Shock Trauma. Other popular rotations to consider as an Orthopedic Surgery applicant include (but are not limited to): Addiction Medicine, Emergency and Trauma Radiology, Infectious Disease, MSK Radiology, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic Outpatient, Pain Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Subspecialty Surgery.

### Application Platform

Applicants will apply to Residency Programs using the AAMC MyERAS application platform.

[ERAS Timeline](#)

[ERAS Tools and Worksheets](#)

### Match Platform

Orthopedic Surgery Programs will participate in the Main NRMP Match.

[NRMP](#)

[Main Residency Match Applicants Calendar](#)

### Application and Match Timeline - Tentative/Dates subject to change

Date	Activity
Jun 5, 2024	ERAS season begins
Sep 4, 2024	Residency applicants may begin submitting applications to programs
Sep 25, 2024	Residency Application Deadline - Residency programs may begin reviewing applications and MSPEs
Nov 18, 2024	Universal Interview Offer Day – 12:00 PM EST
End of January	Register for NRMP Match and SOAP
Feb 3, 2025	Ranking Opens in NRMP
Mar 5, 2025	Rank Lists Certified
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of March	SOAP and MATCH

# ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

## Specialty Competitiveness

*\*Data shared here is from external sources; it is important to know that during our meetings we will review data from MedScope where you can compare your situation with that of other UMSOM grads.*

**Orthopedic Surgery is among the most competitive specialties; 72% of US Seniors matched in 2024 and there was 1 unfilled program. All students must have a strong contingency plan.**

### From NRMP Main Residency Match Data, 2024

<https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Advance-Data-Tables-2024.pdf>

**Table 1A Match Summary for MD Seniors, 2024**

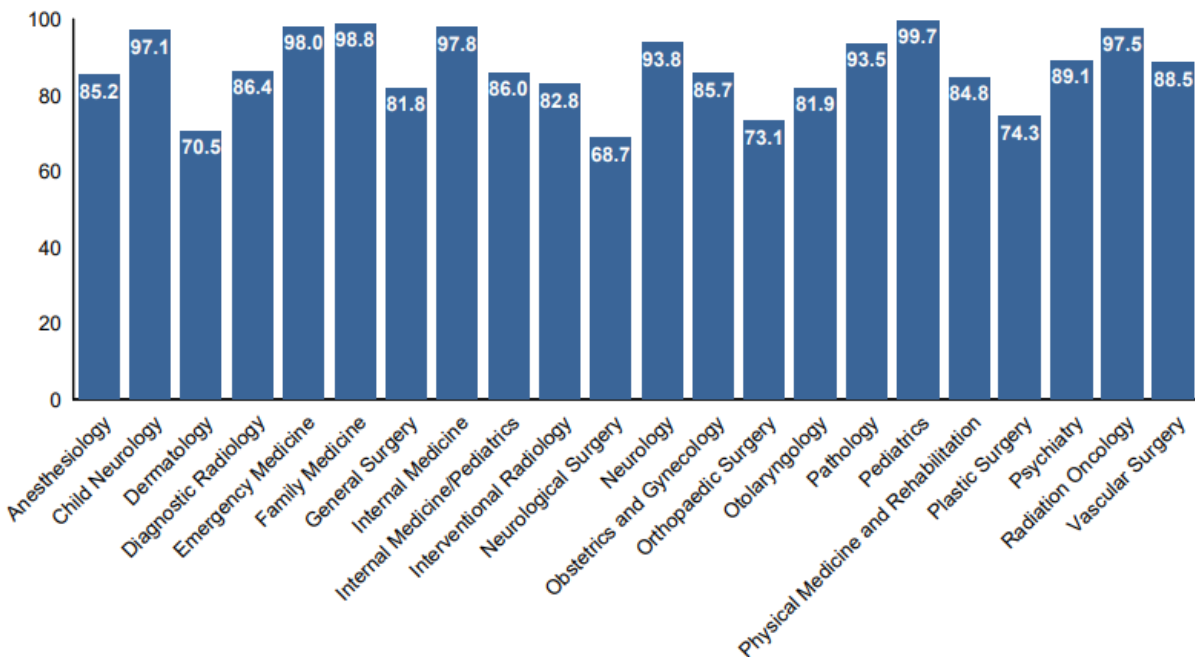
Specialty	No. of Programs	Positions Offered	Unfilled Programs	No. of Applicants*		No. of Matches*		% Filled		Ranked Positions	
				MD Seniors	Total	MD Seniors	Total	MD Seniors	Total	MD Seniors	Total
Orthopedic Surgery	218	916	1	1,008	1,492	726	915	79.3	99.9	10,114	12,269

### NRMP Charting outcomes for the Match, 2024

[Charting\\_Outcomes\\_MD\\_Seniors\\_2024-2.pdf](#)

**Chart 3**

**Match Rates of U.S. MD Seniors  
Percent Matched by Preferred Specialty**



# ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

## The Competitive Applicant

The most competitive applicants in Orthopedic Surgery are students with a strong academic profile, an above average Step 2 score, and have demonstrated commitment to the field through research, service, and networking. We recommend considering whether a gap year in Orthopedic Surgery research would enhance your application.

### NRMP Charting outcomes for the Match, 2024

[Charting\\_Outcomes\\_MD\\_Seniors\\_2024-2.pdf](#)

**Table ORS-1** Summary Statistics on U.S. MD Seniors  
*Orthopaedic Surgery*

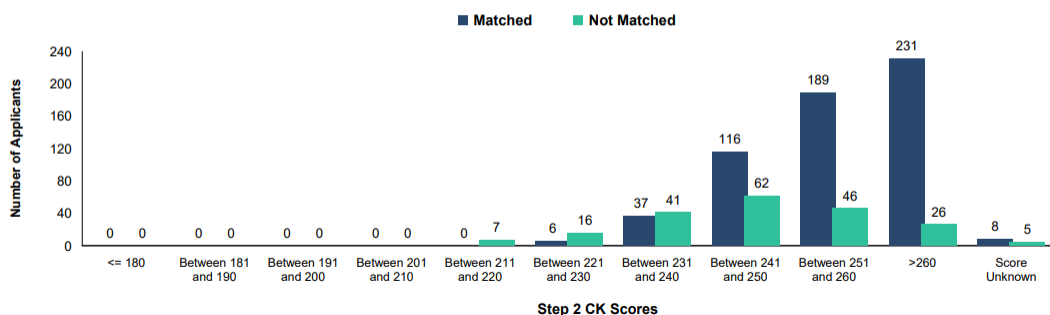
Measure	Matched (n=587)	Unmatched (n=203)
1. Mean number of contiguous ranks	11.8	6.3
2. Mean number of distinct specialties ranked	1.1	1.2
3. Mean USMLE Step 1 score*	244	234
4. Mean USMLE Step 2 score	257	246
5. Mean number of research experiences	8.1	8.0
6. Mean number of abstracts, presentations, and publications	23.8	18.0
7. Mean number of work experiences	2.5	2.4
8. Mean number of volunteer experiences	4.8	4.8
9. Percentage who are AOA members	34.2	15.8
10. Percentage who graduated from one of the 40 U.S. medical schools with the highest NIH funding	33.0	20.7
11. Percentage who have Ph.D. degree	1.3	3.2
12. Percentage who have another graduate degree	18.2	24.7

Step 2 – A reasonable goal for an Orthopedic Surgery applicant is the Mean Step 2 score (257) noted above. It is important to remember that applicants are successful in Ortho match at a range of scores below and above the mean. Students with a Step 2 score < 250, should consider a strong Contingency plan.

### NRMP Charting outcomes for the Match, 2024

[Charting\\_Outcomes\\_MD\\_Seniors\\_2024-2.pdf](#)

**Chart ORS-4** USMLE Step 2 CK Scores of U.S. MD Seniors  
*Orthopaedic Surgery*



## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

### UMSOM MedScope Data 2021-2025

	No. Students	Avg. No. Interviews	% Match
<b>All</b>	23	9.6	70% (16/23)
<b>AOA</b>	8	14.1	88% (7/8)
<b>Non-AOA</b>	15	6.8	63% (10/15)
<b>Step 2 &gt;= 257</b>	10	11.7	90% (9/10)
<b>Step 2 &lt; 257</b>	13	7.8	54% (7/13)
<b>Step 2 &gt;= 260</b>	7	15.5	100% (7/7)
<b>Step 2 &lt; 260</b>	16	7.6	56% (9/16)

<b>Exceptional</b>	3	10.5	100%
<b>Outstanding</b>	12	10.7	67% (8/12)
<b>Excellent</b>	5	5	60% (3/5)
<b>Very well</b>	3	8.7	33% (1/3)

<b>2021</b>	4	11	75% (3/4)
<b>2022</b>	7	8	57% (4/7)
<b>2023</b>	3	9	33% (1/3)
<b>2024</b>	3	11.3	100%
<b>2025</b>	6	10.3	83%

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

### Identifying Programs

The AMA [FRIEDA](#) database, which is a national warehouse of residency programs, may be a good place to start when researching programs. Many specialty societies will have a specialty-specific resource as well. Students should research programs of interest directly to get the most up to date information. OSA and Specialty Advisors, as well as the Alumni Network, can be additional resources when creating a list.

The [AAMC Residency Explorer Tool](#) is another useful resource in helping you gauge your competitiveness for a particular program. The data available in MedScope (which we can review together in our 1:1 meeting) will complement this data.

See Appendix below for list of programs that have extended interview offers to UMSOM students in the past three cycles.

### How Many Programs to Apply To

The Number of Programs you apply to will depend on the location and make up of programs you are interested in and your competitiveness as an applicant at those programs. To make an informed decision, you will need to have your Step 2 score back and your final class standing after all clerkship grades are available. In general, signaling has significantly reduced the number of applications. Generally, we recommend to apply to a few select programs beyond signaled programs, focusing on programs that are not participating in signaling.

In 2025, UMSOM students who applied to Orthopedic Surgery residency programs applied to an average of 330.8 programs; *Note, this includes students with a range of class standing and step scores.*

On average, students received interview offers from approximately 34% of the programs they applied to; with the highest application to interview conversion rate coming from programs to which they submitted a signal.

National and local (MedScope) data shows us that the probability of matching is greatest for a student with 12-14 programs on their rank list, which means your goal is to secure 12-14 interview offers.

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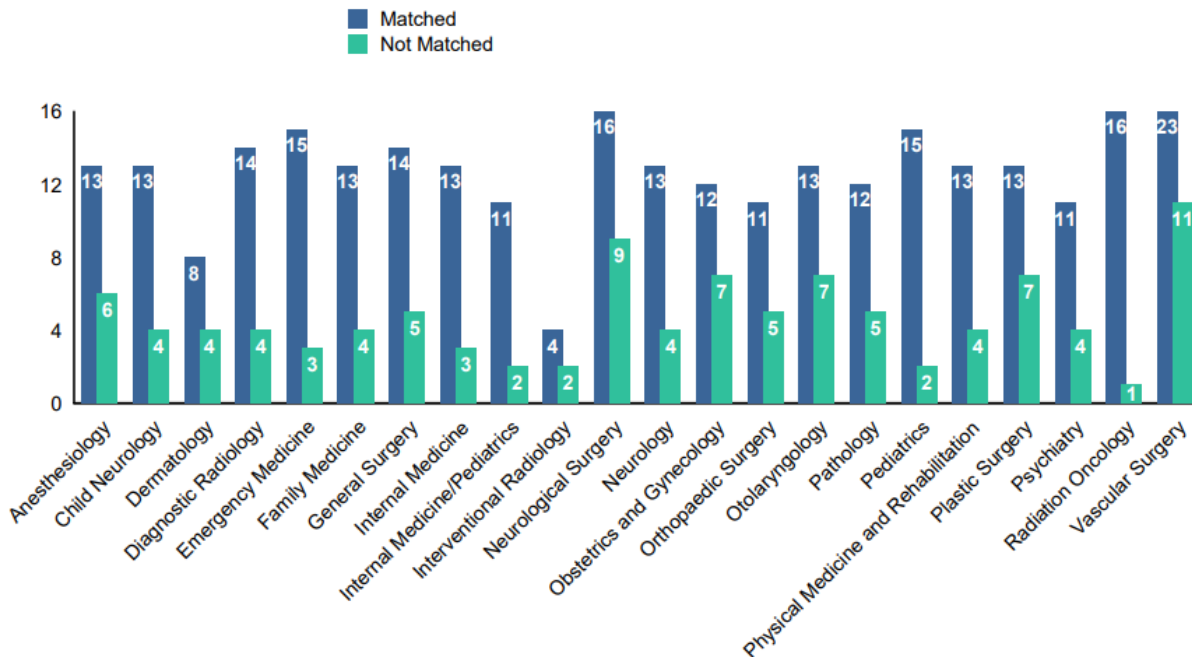
## National Supporting Data

### NRMP Charting outcomes for the Match, 2024

Charting Outcomes MD Seniors 2024-2.pdf

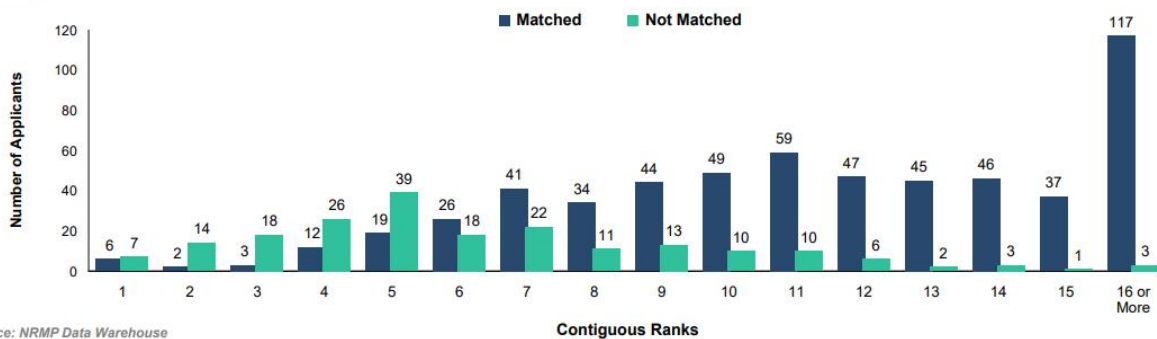
**Chart 4**

**Median Number of Contiguous Ranks of U.S. MD Seniors by Preferred Specialty and Match Status**



**Chart ORS-2**

**Number of Contiguous Ranks of U.S. MD Seniors Orthopaedic Surgery**

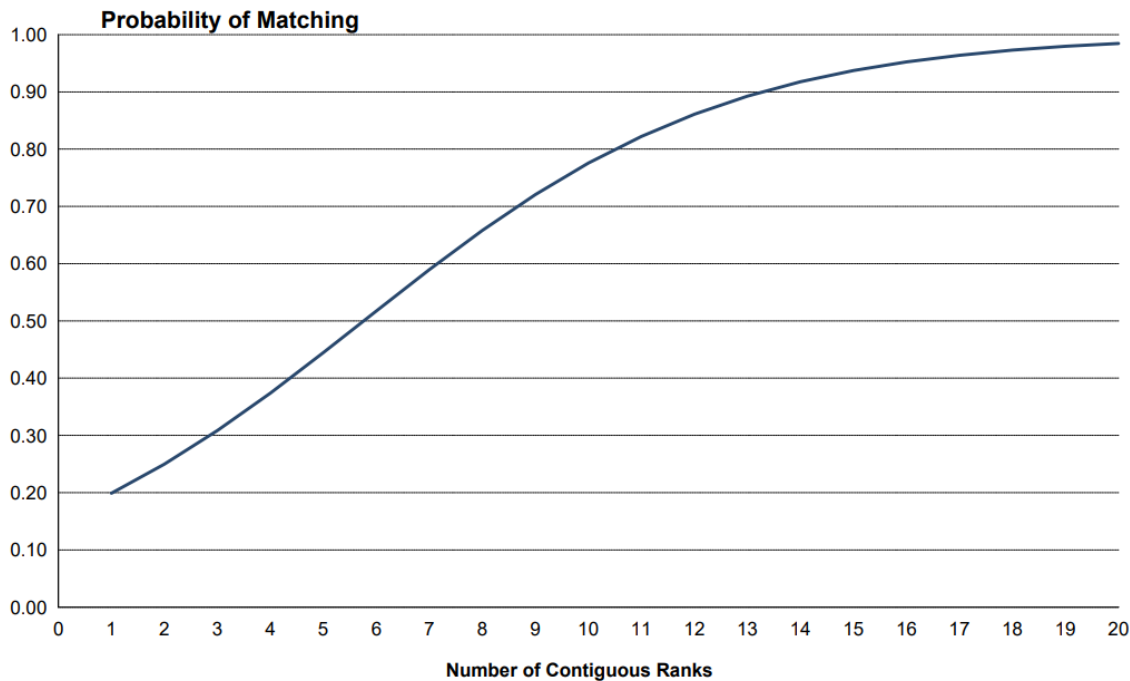


Source: NRMP Data Warehouse

# ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Graph  
ORS-1

Probability of U.S. MD Seniors Matching to Preferred Specialty by Number of Contiguous Ranks  
**Orthopaedic Surgery**



## MedScope Supporting Data

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025 National MD
Avg Applications	95.3	43.3	39.3	30.8	45.4
Avg Interview Offers	8	9	11.3	10.3	NA
% Invites/Applications	8%	21%	29%	34%	34%
<b>No. Signals</b>	N/A	30	30	30	30
Signal Hit Rate (#Interviews/30)	N/A	24%	29%	34%	NA
Percent of Interview Offers from Signaled Programs	N/A	81%	76%	33%	24%
Percent of Interview Offers from Non-Signaled Programs	N/A	19%	34%	0.70%	0%
No. Additional Interview Offers from Non-Signaled Programs	N/A	1 to 3	3 to 5*	0-2*	NA

# ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

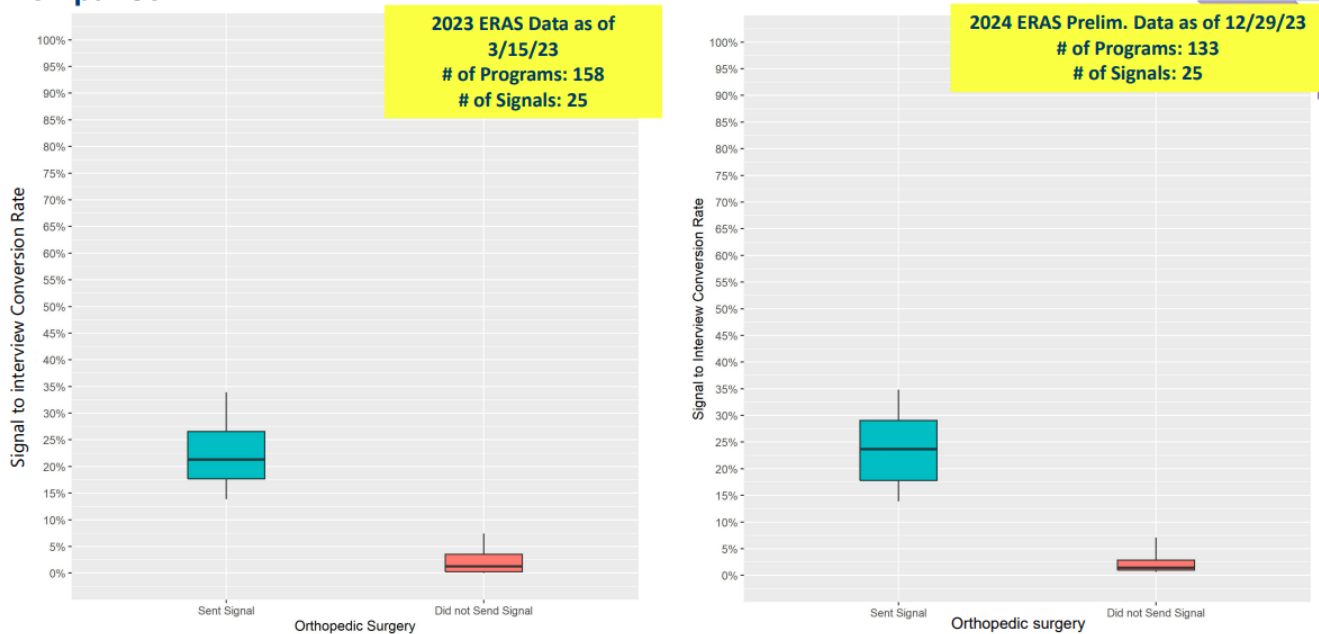
## Program Signaling

Orthopedic Surgery Applicants can apply a total of **30 signals** at the time of application. Program signals are an opportunity for applicants to indicate programs of interest. Programs in turn will use signaling data when considering whom to extend an interview offer. Students are strongly encouraged to use all available signals and to include a mix of programs for which they are competitive on their signal list. A smart signaling strategy may reduce the overall number of applications.

### [AAMC: Exploring the Relationship Between Program Signaling & Interview Invitations](#)

2024 Data from AAMC/ERAS, showed that the application to interview conversion rate was highest for programs that were sent a gold signal; and silver signal was higher than for no-signal.

### Orthopedic Surgery: Interview Rates by Program Signal Status Year Over Year Comparison



© Association of American Medical Colleges



SOM – MedScope Data shows comparable findings – see above.

## Contingency Planning

All applicants should consider a contingency plan as part of their residency application; see the OSA Residency Application Manual for more information. Students should discuss their contingency plans with their OSA and Specialty Advisors. Possible contingency plans for Orthopedic Surgery applicants include a dual categorical application (e.g. Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine), preliminary Surgery programs, or a research year off.

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

### **Appendix – List of Programs that have Interviewed UMSOM Students**

For four three cycles

AdventHealth Florida ProgramOrlando FL  
Albany Medical Center ProgramAlbany NY  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine ProgramBronx NY  
Albert Einstein Healthcare Network ProgramPhiladelphia PA  
Baylor College of Medicine ProgramHouston TX  
Boston University Medical CenterBoston MA  
Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine ProgramRoanoke VA  
Carolinas Medical Center ProgramCharlotte NC  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital ProgramCamden NJ  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center ProgramLebanon NH  
Duke University Hospital ProgramDurham NC  
Emory University School of Medicine ProgramAtlanta GA  
Geisinger Health System ProgramDanville PA  
George Washington University ProgramWashington DC  
Greenville Health System/University of South Carolina ProgramGreenville SC  
Hackensack University Medical Center ProgramMaywood NJ  
Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine at Plainview Hospital ProgramPlainview NY  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai ProgramNew York NY  
Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health System ProgramMiami FL  
Los Angeles County-Harbor-UCLA Medical Center ProgramTorrance CA  
Louisiana State University (Shreveport) ProgramShreveport LA  
Loyola University ProgramMaywood IL  
Maimonides Medical Center ProgramBrooklyn NY  
Marshall University School of Medicine ProgramHuntington WV  
Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School ProgramBoston MA  
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine (Rochester) ProgramRochester MN  
McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University ProgramChicago IL  
Medical University of South Carolina ProgramCharleston SC  
MedStar Health/Georgetown University Hospital ProgramWashington DC  
MedStar Health/Union Memorial Hospital ProgramBaltimore MD  
Monmouth Medical Center ProgramLong Branch NJ  
New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center ProgramValhalla NY  
NYU Winthrop Hospital ProgramMineola NY  
Ohio State University Hospital ProgramColumbus OH  
Palmetto Health/University of South Carolina School of Medicine ProgramColumbia SC  
Penn State Milton S Hershey Medical Center ProgramHershey PA  
Robert Packer Hospital ProgramSayre PA  
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School ProgramNew Brunswick NJ  
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore ProgramBaltimore MD  
St Luke's Hospital ProgramBethlehem PA  
SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn ProgramBrooklyn NY  
Temple University Hospital ProgramPhiladelphia PA

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Thomas Jefferson University Program Philadelphia PA  
Tufts Medical Center Program Boston MA  
University of California (Davis) Health System Program Sacramento CA  
University of California (Irvine) Program Orange CA  
University of Connecticut Program Farmington CT  
University of Florida College of Medicine Jacksonville Program Jacksonville FL  
University of Florida Program Gainesville FL  
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago Program Chicago IL  
University of Kentucky College of Medicine Program Lexington KY  
University of Maryland Program Baltimore MD  
University of Michigan Health System Program Ann Arbor MI  
University of North Carolina Hospitals Program Chapel Hill NC  
University of Pennsylvania Health System Program Philadelphia PA  
University of Rochester Program Rochester NY  
University of South Florida Morsani Program Tampa FL  
University of Vermont Program Burlington VT  
University of Virginia Program Charlottesville VA  
University of Washington Program Seattle WA  
University of Wisconsin Program Madison WI  
UPMC Medical Education Program Pittsburgh PA  
Vanderbilt University Program Nashville TN  
Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Program Richmond VA  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine Program Winston-Salem NC  
West Virginia University Program Morgantown WV  
Yale-New Haven Medical Center Program New Haven CT