Help Students Develop a Smart Application Strategy: Assessing the Point of Diminishing Returns

The AAMC has released [newly updated data](#) that will assist U.S. medical school students and their advisors in working together to develop a smart residency application strategy. As you know, there are several important components to a comprehensive application strategy, including researching specialties, understanding one's competitiveness, and collecting information on individual programs. Specifically, the new findings may help your applicants anchor their initial thinking about the number of residency programs they target with applications.

AAMC researchers have determined that—depending on specialty, USMLE Step 1 score, and applicant type—there is a point of "diminishing returns" at which submitting one additional application does not necessarily increase an applicant's likelihood of entering a residency program. Using U.S. MD applicant data from the AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®), including the number of programs an applicant applied to and the applicant's most recent USMLE Step 1 score, AAMC researchers investigated the relationship between the number of programs to which an applicant applied and subsequent entry into a residency program. This new data on the point of diminishing returns are available now for 19 specialties.

The AAMC is sharing these findings with applicants, and urging those students to consider these findings as only one of many factors that should influence a [smart residency application strategy](#). The AAMC believes that applicants should evaluate a wide variety of information, in collaboration with their advisors, when ultimately determining how many and which programs to apply to.

Careers in Medicine Updates

The Careers in Medicine [Residency and Fellowship Program Search](#) now includes an expanded level of program detail within the profiles of thousands of residency and fellowship programs. In most cases, each training program's profile page now includes a description of the program, characteristics of trainees currently enrolled in the program, as well as current data on graduate career plans—what trainees in that program do upon completion of the program.