

AAMC Resident Readiness Survey Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why is the AAMC doing this? What problems will this solve?** The AAMC Resident Readiness Survey (also referred to as the PD Survey) will eliminate the need for the schools to create and administer local surveys and will reduce the number of different school-specific surveys throughout the year that are sent to PDs. It will assist the medical schools with their continuous quality improvement processes to meet LCME standard 8.4. Ultimately, the AAMC Resident Readiness Survey should improve the transition from UME to GME and the feedback between leaders within and across these schools and programs.
- 2. What is timing of this project?** For the 2021-2022 academic year, the AAMC will survey the Program Directors (PDs) in Nov 2021 to Jan 2022 during the first milestone reporting period. Reports would be available in Spring 2022. After the 2021-2022 cycle, the AAMC will decide whether to proceed for future annual administrations of the survey.
- 3. How will the PD Survey work?** Program Directors (PDs) will log into GME Track and access a tab for the AAMC Resident Readiness Survey. Next to each resident's name, there will be a link to a PGY-1 survey for that resident. Only those residents that are eligible (meaning they have graduated from a school that is participating in the pilot) will be listed and a link will be provided for each to a brief survey about readiness. A medical school chooses to participate by signing a pilot participation agreement with the AAMC. The agreement describes AAMC and medical school responsibilities for the pilot and includes data use limitations and a limitation on the school conducting its own PGY-1 survey.
- 4. If a learner does not want their program director to complete a PD survey about them, what is the process for the learner to make sure their program director knows this and does not complete the survey?** Student/residents may opt-out of the process. Those who complete ERAS applications, starting with the 2020 ERAS Cycle, are informed that their assessment data for PGY-1 may be collected by the AAMC and provided to their medical school of graduation, subject to certain conditions. If an ERAS applicant does not want to participate in the PD survey, they may email privacy@aamc.org and request to opt-out. PDs will only receive requests for surveys of those residents who: 1) completed at least one ERAS application (and hence, were notified of the process); 2) are NOT on the opt-out list; and 3) graduated from a participating school (i.e., has signed an agreement with the AAMC). A resident may make a request to their program director to not complete the survey. It is entirely up to the PD to decide whether to abide by the request. The AAMC is not involved in this decision.
- 5. Will the PD be required to participate?** No, participation is voluntary. Further, it is the responsibility of the PD to determine whether the PD may share the information per institutional policy. This is the current state with all school-generated surveys sent to program directors about resident readiness.

6. **What was the response rate of the first pilot cycle (academic year 2020-2021)?** In 2020-2021, we surveyed 2,859 Program Directors about 10,743 PGY1 residents' readiness for GME. Final response rates included **63%** of eligible program directors, who provided readiness data on **52%** of eligible residents.
7. **What will the AAMC do with the data?** The AAMC will provide the data to the medical school of graduation for each resident by creating a school specific report, including identified (by resident name) data. For MD-granting medical schools, the reports will be available to a specified medical school contact via a secure portal – the Medical School Profile System (MSPS). For DO-granting medical schools, the reports will be delivered to a specified medical school contact via a secure file transfer system. The AAMC may also use the data for its own presentations, publications, and analysis, subject to the AAMC Privacy Statement and the pilot participation agreement.
8. **Will the national data be published in aggregate or somehow placed in the public domain?** The AAMC may publish information on residents, interns, fellows, and applicants to residency, internship, and fellowship programs in the form of aggregate statistics in various AAMC reports. Such information may include PD Survey data. The AAMC will not share individual, program, or school identified data with the public or with accrediting bodies.
9. **How long will the survey take to complete?** During the first pilot cycle, the survey took, on average, under 3 minutes to complete one survey per PGY-1 resident.
10. **How long will the data be stored?** The AAMC will store the data indefinitely or as long as the data are useful.
11. **Is our UME or GME training program going to be compared to other programs on the basis of these data?** These data will be used only for continuous quality improvement of the curriculum and will not be used for “ranking” UME or GME programs based on the program-director assessed readiness of the residents in the program.
12. **Is there a fee to participate in the pilot?** No.
13. **My school prefers to use our own survey. How does our school opt out of having the AAMC collect data about our graduates in this national PD survey?** A school must forego sending its own PGY-1 survey if it agrees to participate in the pilot. If a school does not participate in the pilot, the AAMC will not collect data on its graduates during the pilot year. The pilot participant agreement does not preclude schools from sending program director surveys about their graduates beyond the PGY-1 year of training.
14. **As a program director, I will want to get consent from my residents first before I complete any surveys about them. Will the AAMC please provide a form for me to do so?** See #4 above for related information. The AAMC is not providing a standardized form.

Please consult with your legal and human resources advisors about what permission is appropriate.

15. **Who will the PD survey data be sent to at my school?** Each school will identify a data contact who will access the data via MSPS. For those schools without access to MSPS (AACOM member schools), a report will be shared directly via secure email.
16. **We share our own school's PD survey results with numerous individuals at our school. Will there be any limitations placed on how we can use and share the PD survey data from the AAMC?** Yes, there will be restrictions on use of the data. Please refer to the pilot participation agreement for the specific terms.
17. **What is the plan for following up with non-respondent PDs? Our school sends three reminders. Will the AAMC do this? If we don't get information via the AAMC survey for particular graduates, can the school then follow up directly with the program directors?** The AAMC will send multiple reminders to increase responses. We ask that schools participating in the pilot not survey or follow up with PDs.
18. **We use our PD survey data for research purposes. What steps will we have to take to get permission from the AAMC to use the PD Survey data for our research studies?** The participation agreement does not permit use of the data for research purposes.
19. **How will the school receive the data?** The secure report will be individual level, identified data for the graduates from that specific school.
20. **How will the AAMC assure medical schools that these PD survey data will not be used for comparative or ranking purposes?** The AAMC will not provide resident, school, or program identified data to accrediting bodies, and it will not publish any resident, school, or program identified data.
21. **Can I request specific items be included on the PD survey?** The PD Survey does not allow for customization by school. Survey items have been designed and reviewed by hundreds of stakeholders. The survey instrument will be shared with the schools (in concert with the participant agreement process). We will be evaluating the items in the pilot process for future administrations.
22. **Who should I contact if I have additional questions?** Additional questions about the project should be directed to ResidentReadiness@aamc.org.
23. **Which medical schools participated in the pilot in 2020-2021?**
Baylor College of Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Creighton University School of Medicine
CUNY School of Medicine
Drexel University College of Medicine
Duke University School of Medicine
East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine
Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Harvard Medical School
Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California
Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
Medical College of Wisconsin
New York Medical College
Northwestern University The Feinberg School of Medicine
Ohio State University College of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine
Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Robert Larner, M.D., College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
Rush Medical College of Rush University Medical Center
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
Stanford University School of Medicine
State University of New York Upstate Medical University
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Tufts University School of Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine
University of Alabama School of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine
University of Central Florida College of Medicine
University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences The Pritzker School of Medicine
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

University of Colorado School of Medicine
University of Florida College of Medicine
University of Kansas School of Medicine
University of Kentucky College of Medicine
University of Massachusetts Medical School
University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
University of Minnesota Medical School
University of Mississippi School of Medicine
University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School
University of Washington School of Medicine
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Wayne State University School of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine
Yale School of Medicine
University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
A.T. Still University - Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
West Virginia University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine