

As current and immediate past chairs of the ERAS Advisory Committee, we ask that you please consider all parties involved in the ERAS 2021 residency application season as you plan your interview strategy. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us all with many challenges including adjusting to a new way of conducting virtual interviews.

To better support all parties during the application and interview process, we have included suggested practices to improve the virtual interview experience for everyone. Additionally, we are including new virtual interview resources the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC®) has developed to support residency programs and applicants.

Thank you for all you do to make this a successful interview process for all.

Good luck this season,



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Suggested Practices for Programs

- Inform applicants about your program requirements, interview process, timelines for sending and conducting interviews, and interview cancellation policy by publishing this information in the “Program Information for Applicants” section in [ERAS Account Maintenance \(EAM\)](#) or including a link to your website.
- Limit the invitations offered to the number of interview slots available and provide applicants with a reasonable deadline to respond (a minimum of 48 hours is recommended) before offering additional interview invitations.
- If you are not inviting an applicant for interview, inform them of their status with your program (e.g., wait-listed, not invited for interview, etc.). If your program uses a waitlist, communicate the process used for filling interview slots that become available.

Suggested Practices for Applicants

- Work with your advisor(s) to craft an interview strategy that supports your priorities.
- Determine the maximum number of interviews you can reasonably attend and prioritize them by program.
- Practice professional courtesy by providing a timely response to all interview invitations and cancellations as early as possible. Scheduling an excessive number of interview time slots that you cannot possibly attend could result in a bad representation of your institution, limit other applicants' opportunities, and is inconsiderate of the interviewers' time.
- Plan your interviews in advance by trialing your ability to have the setting and technology to participate in your interviews optimally.

Virtual Interview Resources

- [AAMC Virtual Interview Resources](#) when conducting and preparing for interviews
 - Recorded Webinars for Program Directors
 - A 2-part webinar series for residency programs that addressed planning for a virtual interview season and using virtual interviews as part of the selection process. Recordings of [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#) webinars are now available.
 - Recorded Webinar for Applicants
 - A [webinar recording](#) for residency applicants that discussed how to prepare for virtual interviews is now available.
- [ERAS 2021 Participating Specialties & Programs](#): A comprehensive list of all the specialties and programs participating in the ERAS 2021 season. Applicants can sort information, filter new specialties, and specialties with additional requirement information.
- [ERAS Specialty Information Report](#): A listing of specialties that have provided additional requirements or specific instructions on applying this season. Applicants and advisors can use this report to identify if the specialty they are interested in has published any additional requirements or specific instructions on applying to programs within that specialty. This document is designed to help applicants research and review specialty information to devise a smart application strategy.
- [ERAS Specialty Response to COVID-19](#): A repository for specialties that have released guidance in light of COVID-19 regarding their application cycle. Applicants and advisors can reference specialty specific information from the list of specialties that have shared guidance.