LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Advisors: Leveraging CiM, VSLO®, the Residency Explorer™ Tool & DWS Analytics to Support the Transition to Residency

AAMC

Welcome & Overview

- Explore the continuum of tools that support learners and advisors across the UME–GME transition.
- Highlight how the Careers in Medicine® (CiM) program, Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO®) application service, Residency Explorer™ tool, and DWS Analytics each play a role at different stages.
- Emphasize how these tools connect reflection, exploration, and application, for both learners and advisors.
- Share updates on ongoing CiM and Residency Explorer tool improvements designed to enhance the experience for the advising and learner communities.

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

From Guidance to Insight: Supporting Learners from Reflection to Selection

Entering Medical School:

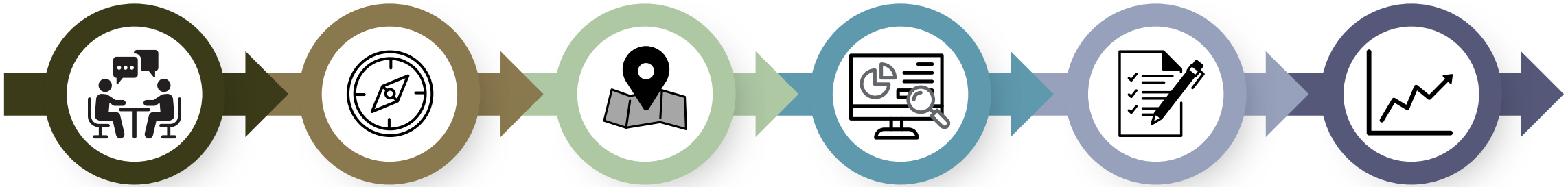
Advisor Role: Introduce reflection and exploration tools
Tool: Careers in Medicine

Exploring Away Rotations:

Advisor Role: Help students strategically plan rotations aligned with goals
Tools: VSLO, Residency Explorer

Applying to Programs:

Advisor Role: Support application readiness, selection strategy, and data-informed advising
Tools: Residency Explorer, DWS Analytics



Exploring Specialties:

Advisor Role: Facilitate specialty conversations using CiM data
Tool: Careers in Medicine reports

Exploring Programs:

Advisor Role: Use data to contextualize program competitiveness and Alignment
Tool: Residency Explorer

Post-Application Insights:

Advisor Role: Monitor applicant progress and use analytics to improve advising strategies
Tool: DWS Analytics

AAMC

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Careers in Medicine® (CiM) Program and the Residency Explorer™ tool

Exploring Interests and Programs

Supporting reflection, exploration, and data-informed advising

AAMC

CiM: Self Reflection & Specialty Exploration

- Suite of self-assessments
- Specialty data & guidance
- Early advising conversations

Shared Goal: Advising Alignment

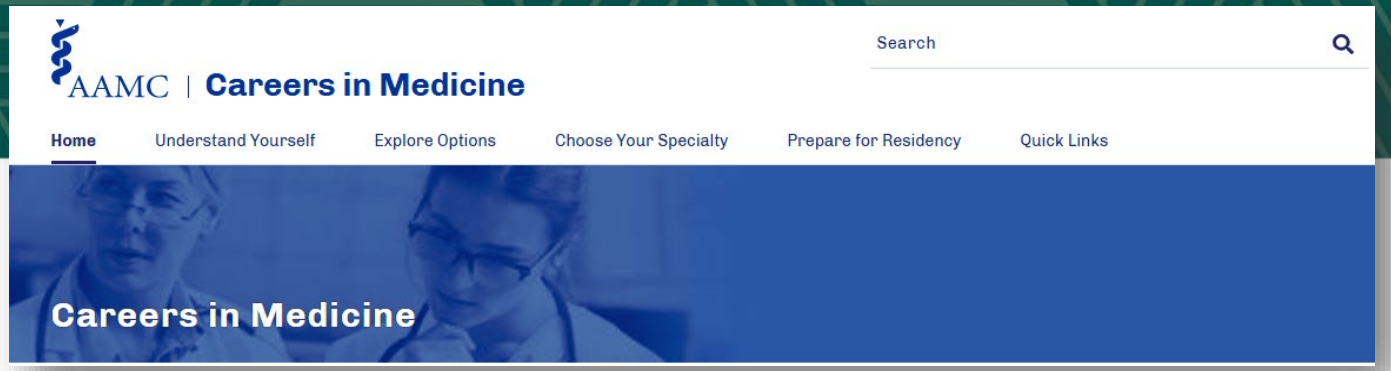
- Help students make informed, confident decisions
- Encourage data-driven advising
- Bridge reflection to selection

Residency Explorer Tool: Program Research & Readiness

- Program-level data & insights
- Collaborative advising conversations
- Contextualized competitiveness and Alignment

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Careers in Medicine® Program



What Advisors Should Know:

- CiM provides self-assessment tools that generate insights into interests, values, personality, and skills.
- These results connect directly to specialty information, giving students data to explore "why" a field might appeal to them.
- Advisors can use CiM reports to structure early advising conversations and normalize uncertainty among pre-clinical learners.
- Early engagement matters — encouraging use in M1 or early M2 helps students make more intentional specialty and elective choices later on.
- CiM complements other tools by setting the reflective foundation that later connects to the VSLO program and Residency Explorer tool.

AAMC

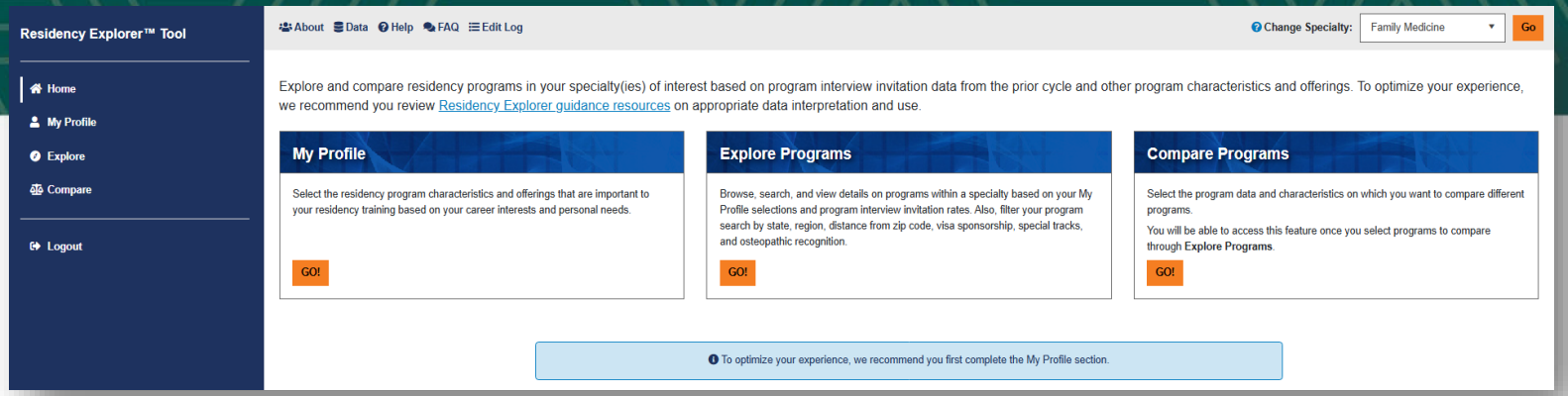
Recent CiM Program Updates

Spring–Fall 2025

- 130K+ learners now actively using CiM (22k new M1s added this summer and 11k OMS1s added in the fall).
- 300+ articles reviewed to streamline and refresh CiM content for FY26.
- Launched new messaging encouraging ongoing use (M1–M3), not just at orientation.
- Launched monthly messaging campaign to advisors to help advisors understand which resources they can plug at different times of the year and student journey.
- International outreach launched — AAHCI, Project IMG, INTEALTH partnerships + targeted school communications.

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Residency Explorer™ Tool



What Advisors Should Know:

- Residency Explorer provides program-level data verified by multiple national organizations involved in the transition to residency.
- Advisors can use the tool to help students interpret competitiveness data, contextualize where they may thrive, and make balanced program lists.
- The tool presents characteristics of applicants who are interviewed, but data should be used as context, not as prescriptive guidance.
- Advisors can model how to navigate the tool with students, emphasizing transparency, curiosity, and data literacy.
- The Residency Explorer tool bridges the exploration phase into the application phase and complements CiM by turning reflection into action through evidence-based program research.

AAMC

Source verified Data

Source	Residency Explorer Data
ACGME Accreditation Data System	Program information
GME Track Program Survey	Program characteristics, offerings
GME Track Resident Roster Certification	Resident characteristics
AAMC • ERAS Application • Thalamus Core	Applicant characteristics Interview invitations
NBME	Step 1 and Step 2 CK data
NBOME	Level 1 and Level 2 CE data
NRMP Main Residency Match	# of positions offered and filled

Recent Residency Explorer Tool Updates

Spring–Fall 2025

- 183K+ visitors (June 20–Oct 22, 2025) — sessions ↑ 149%, page views ↑ 135% YoY
- Added Step 2 CK & Level 2 CE score ranges
- Expanded to 40+ specialties & 5,800+ programs
- Enhanced Main Residency Match® position data
- Added detailed program-specific eligibility & application info

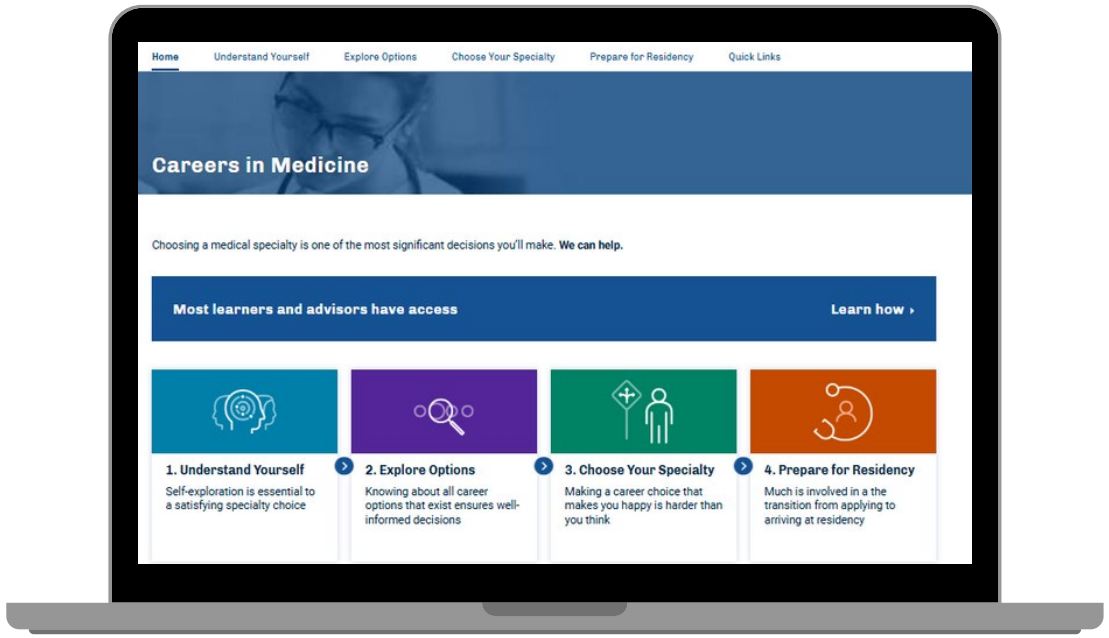
LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Where CiM & the Residency Explorer Tool are Headed

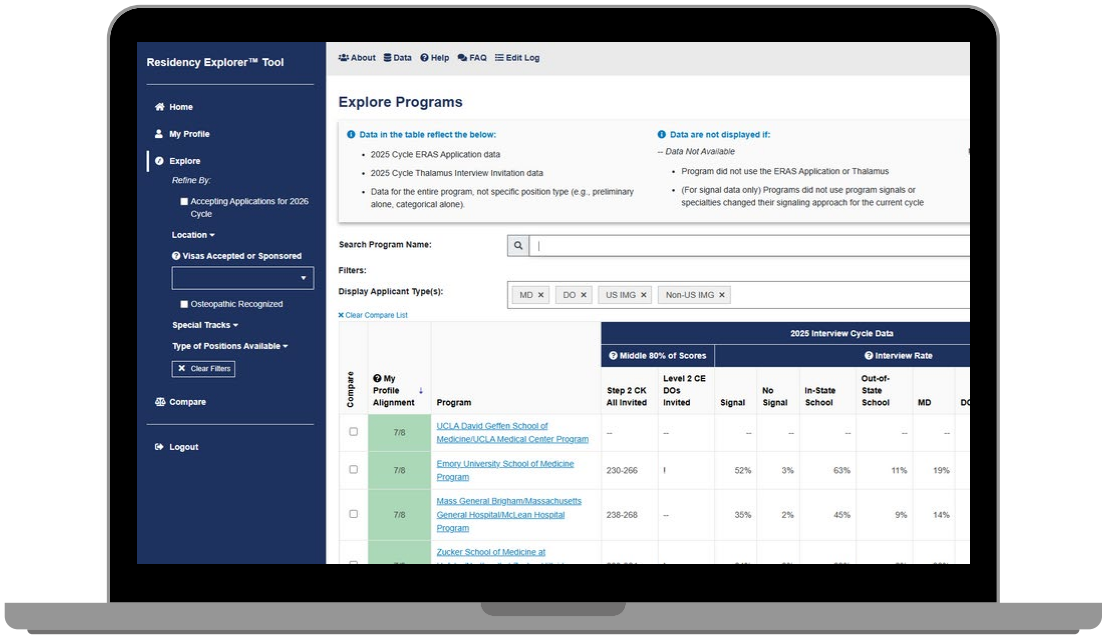
AAMC

TODAY: Two separate tools.

Careers in Medicine® (CiM)



Residency Explorer™ Tool



AAMC

Current to Future

Current Pain Points

- Some important learner content is behind paywall
- Siloed user experience
- Limited personalization
- Confusion about where to start and what to use when

Future

- Expanded content access for all learners and learners at earlier stages
- Integrated platforms = streamlined UX
- Personalized advising and exploration journey
- Consistent, verified data
- More efficient for advisors and institutions

AAMC becomes the premiere source for exploring a career in medicine

- Expanded access to specialty information for all learners
- Earlier exposure to reflection and exploration (before and during medical school)
- Students enter advising conversations already familiar with CiM's framework and language

Seek to expand partnerships with AMA and Specialty organizations to enhance content

- Authentic specialty content co-developed with AMA and specialty societies
- Day-in-the-life videos, workforce data, and spotlight features
- Richer exploration experiences that enhance specialty advising conversations

Enhance personalization to better inform learner choice

- Self-assessment data drives personalized recommendations
- Connects reflection results to specialty insights and program exploration
- Supports data-informed, individualized advising

What's Next: 2026–2027 Cycle

- CiM and the Residency Explorer tool will remain separate platforms
- Both updated in summer 2026 (tentative June)
- CiM will continue to include:
  - CiM self-assessments and reports
  - CiM advisor content and reports
- The Residency Explorer tool will expand to include:
  - Newly updated specialty pages (including new information and data)
  - New program-level data about application requirements from GME Track®
  - Predicted likelihood of interview invitation (pending a 3rd successful R&D cycle and final National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) approval of use of their data)

On the Horizon: 2027–2028 Cycle

- Launch the integrated CiM-Residency Explorer platform* (tentative summer 2027)
  - Specialty pages (new information and data)
  - Self-assessments (updated content and norms)**
  - Alignment index
  - Predicted likelihood of interview invitation (pending continued approval from NBME, NBOME)

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO®) Program

AAMC

About the VSLO Program

The VSLO program helps medical and public health students connect with institutions offering short-term learning opportunities that can enhance their medical education.

Our broad usership includes:

VSLO System Modernization: Coming Jan. 2026!

- The VSLO program is enhancing its system for institutions and students. These modifications – based on user feedback – will optimize the experience for everyone.
- Key enhancements to the VSLO system:

Catalog Electives

√ Visible √ Open

Increasing transparency and flexibility for both Home and Host institutions in the review process:

Host institutions can select which electives are open and which are visible when opening their catalogs.

Single Drop-Down Menu

√ Approve √ Reject √ Schedule √ Deny √ Notify

Streamlining the process:

Host institutions will receive one application for all date requests for an elective versus multiple separate applications.

VSLO System Modernization Activities

VSLO
A PROGRAM OF THE AAMC

2025-26
VISITING STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES™ (VSLO®) PROGRAM MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER

Mid-Sept. Nearly 200 users participated in the modernization demonstration and feedback sessions

Review the Data Retention Policy

VSLO Office Hours

OCTOBER

Archive your institution's data before the scheduled outage*

VSLO Office Hours

NOVEMBER DECEMBER

VSLO system unavailable starting Monday, Nov. 10

Training schedule and sign-up links for institutional users posted

JANUARY

Institutions can access the VSLO system on Monday, Jan. 12

Students can access the VSLO system on Tuesday, Jan. 20**

Home/Host training sessions begin Tuesday, Jan. 6

FEBRUARY

Home/Host training sessions continue

VSLO Office Hours resume

*Only three calendar years of institution data will be available in the modernized system
**Contingent upon receiving an invitation from their Home institution

AAMC

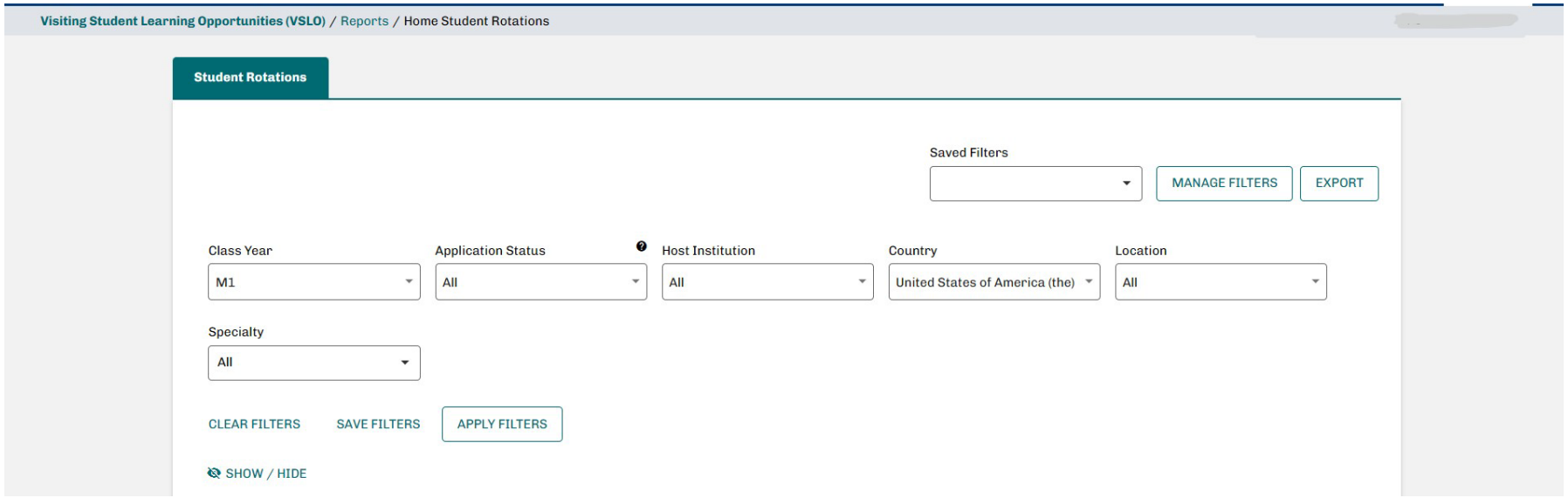
VSLO System Modernization

Stay Up-to-Date with Additional Modernization Details

Register for Modernization Training

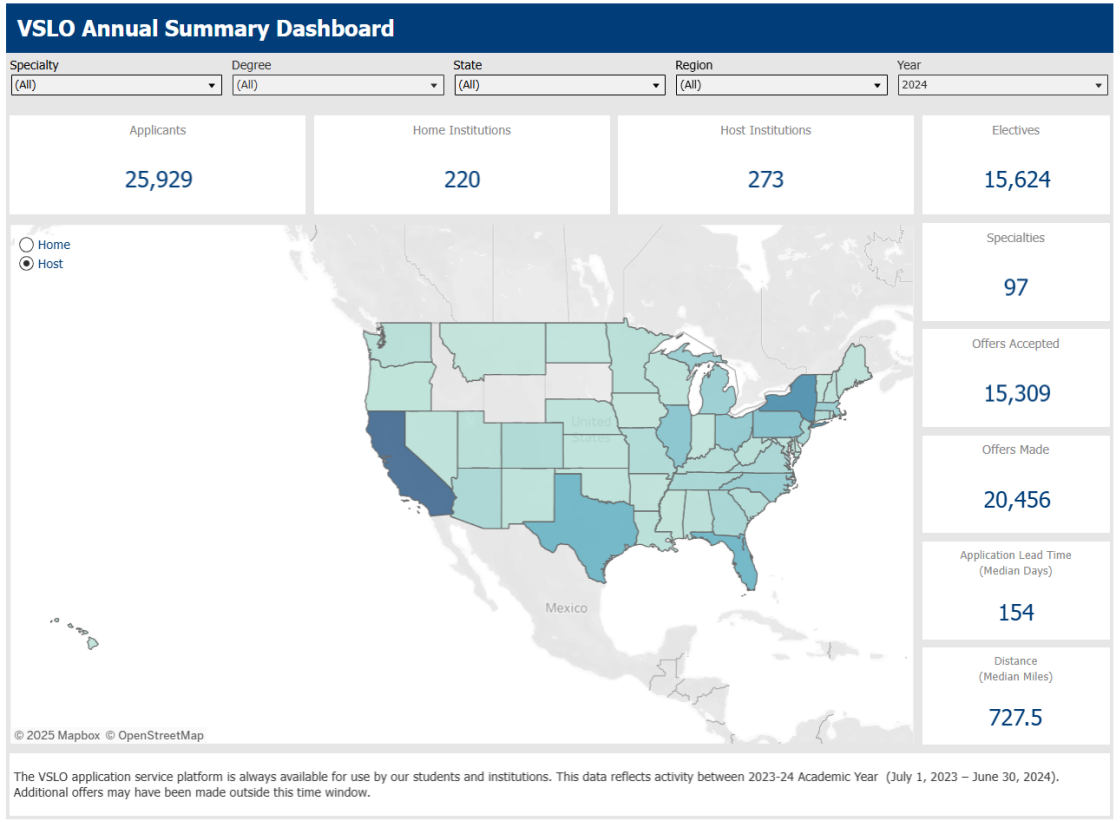
Home Institution Data: Student Rotations Report

- Home institutions have a Student Rotations Report available.
- This report includes application information for all students who have submitted applications in the VSLO system.
- Filters are available to:
  - View specific classes of students
  - View Host institutions and locations that students have applied to



VSLO Annual Summary Dashboard

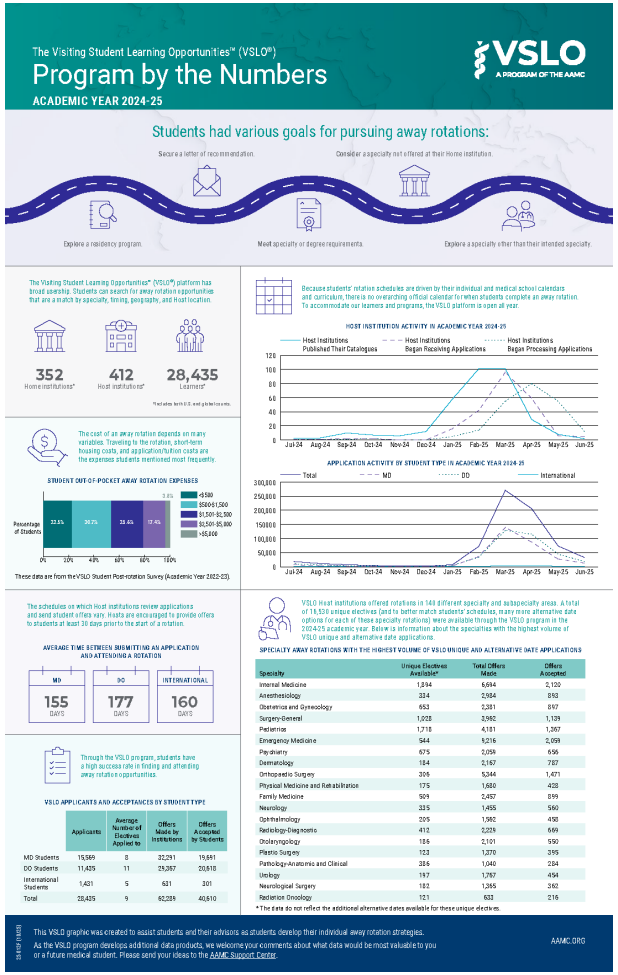
- The VSLO Annual Summary Dashboard provides institutional users with data that directly support away rotation decision-making processes.
- The current dashboard includes data at the state, regional, and national levels for all specialty away rotations available through the VSLO application service in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years.
- Work is underway to deliver institution level data that will allow our institutional users to consider and compare their student specialty rotation data to national data, track historical application volume by Home/Host sites, and more!



AAMC

VSLO Student Infographic

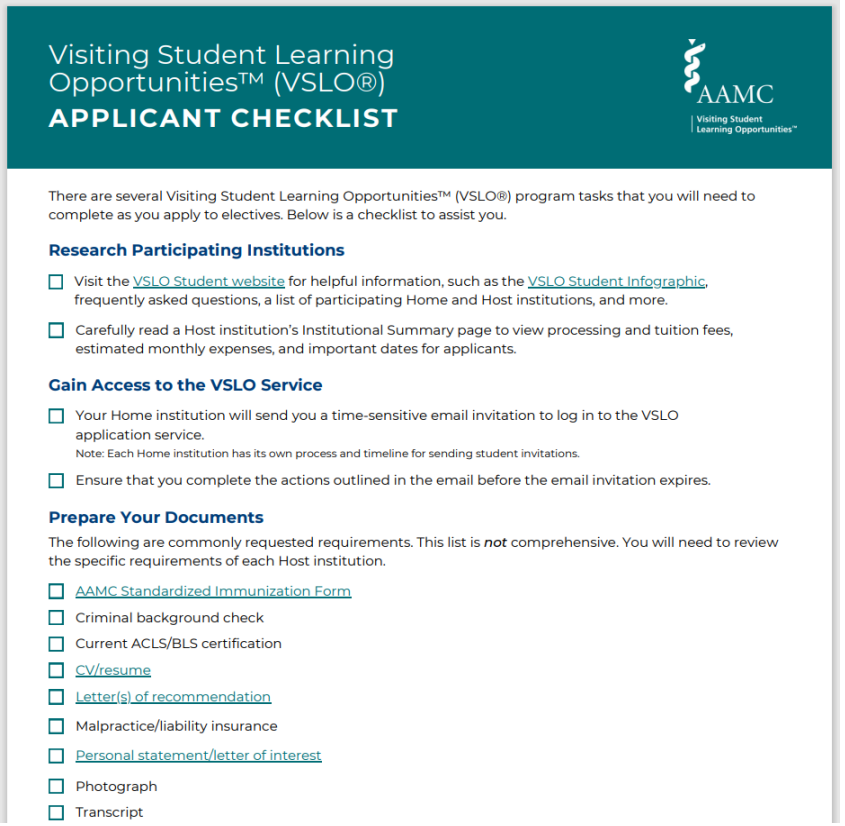
- Updated with data from academic year 2024-2025
- Supports advisors and students developing away rotation strategies
- Data points include:
  - Specialty data
  - Average number of electives applied to by student type
  - Average time between application submission and elective start date
  - Cadence of student and Host institution activity in the VSLO application service
  - And more!



Download the infographic:

VSLO Applicant Checklist

- This resource identifies important tasks applicants will complete when preparing to apply to electives in the VSLO application service.
- Checklist includes steps from each step of the process:
  - Researching participating institutions
  - Getting access to the VSLO application service
  - Preparing documents
  - Completing and submitting applications
  - Monitoring dashboard



Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO®)

APPLICANT CHECKLIST

AAMC
Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™

There are several Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO®) program tasks that you will need to complete as you apply to electives. Below is a checklist to assist you.

Research Participating Institutions

- ☐ Visit the VSLO Student website for helpful information, such as the VSLO Student Infographic, frequently asked questions, a list of participating Home and Host institutions, and more.
- ☐ Carefully read a Host institution's Institutional Summary page to view processing and tuition fees, estimated monthly expenses, and important dates for applicants.

Gain Access to the VSLO Service

- ☐ Your Home institution will send you a time-sensitive email invitation to log in to the VSLO application service.
  Note: Each Home institution has its own process and timeline for sending student invitations.
- ☐ Ensure that you complete the actions outlined in the email before the email invitation expires.

Prepare Your Documents

The following are commonly requested requirements. This list is ***not*** comprehensive. You will need to review the specific requirements of each Host institution.

- ☐ AAMC Standardized Immunization Form
- ☐ Criminal background check
- ☐ Current ACLS/BLS certification
- ☐ CV/resume
- ☐ Letter(s) of recommendation
- ☐ Malpractice/liability insurance
- ☐ Personal statement/letter of interest
- ☐ Photograph
- ☐ Transcript

AAMC

Away Rotation Guidance at the Specialty Level

- As students and advisors consider away rotation strategies, information about specialties can help students decide what is best for their medical education journeys.
- On the **VSLO Specialties page**, students and advisors can see:
  - Away rotation-specific guidance for students provided by specialty organizations – indicated in the *Away Rotations Guidance* column.
  - Specialties that offer support to students pursuing away rotations (financial, academic, and more) – indicated in the *Away Rotation Support* column.
  - Average number of unique elective applications submitted for each specialty and sub-specialty available through the VSLO application service in the last academic year – indicated in the *Unique Elective Application* column.

VSLO System Modernization Activities: Student Edition

VSLO
A PROGRAM OF THE AAMC

2025-26 STUDENT CALENDAR

VISITING STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES™ (VSLO®) PROGRAM MODERNIZATION ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER

Students informed of VSLO system temporary outage for data transfer in November

NOVEMBER

VSLO system unavailable starting Monday, Nov. 10

Prepare for the system re-opening by reviewing the VSLO Applicant Checklist

DECEMBER

Registration opens for 2026 student trainings

JANUARY FEBRUARY

Students can access the VSLO system beginning Tuesday, Jan. 20*

Student trainings will take place in late January and early February

*Contingent upon receiving invitation from Home institution

AAMC

Next Steps for Students and Advisors

- Students who receive invitations from their Home institutions will be able to access the VSLO system on Tuesday, Jan. 20 (reminder: institutional users get access one week prior, on Monday, Jan. 12).
- Students and advisors can register for two VSLO student trainings scheduled for late January and early February 2026.
  - These trainings will walk students through the application process from start to finish and address common questions.
  - Advisors, Student Affairs colleagues, and Home institution users that provide guidance to students are welcome to attend.
  - Training dates and registration information will be available in late December on the **VSLO Student page.**
- Encourage students to share their thoughts about their rotation experiences on the Post-Rotation Student Survey.
- **Registration open: GSA/VSLO Student Webinar – Navigating Away Rotations on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026.**

Visit our website

AAMC

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Dean’s WorkStation Analytics

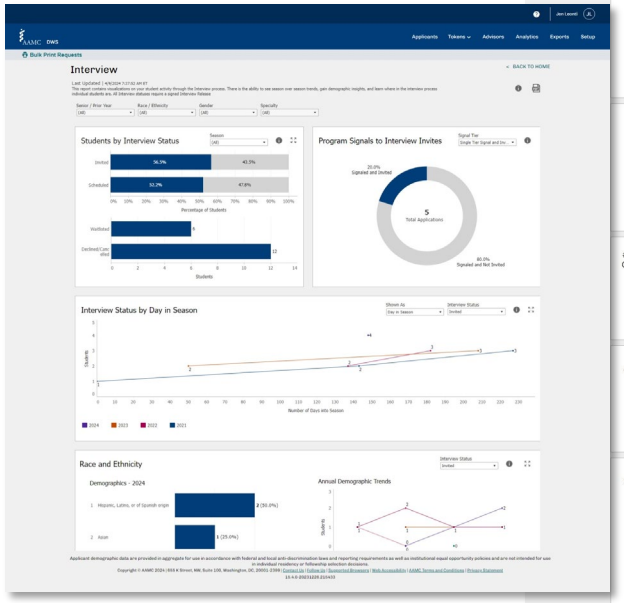
AAMC

Empowering Advisors with Actionable Insights

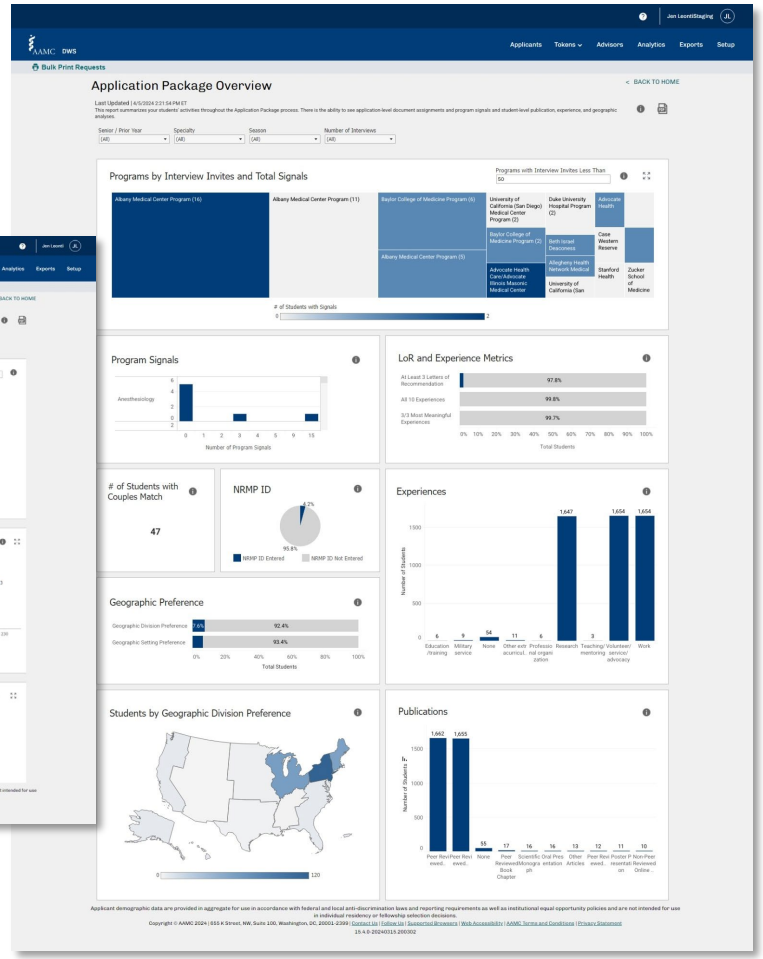
Advisors can track applicant trends across all ERAS-participating specialties and applicants—both MD and DO.

Data provides the ability to monitor performance, competitiveness, application behavior and specialty outcomes throughout the entire application process.

Students can be guided based on accurate, institution specific trends.



Interview Dashboard



Application Package Overview Dashboard

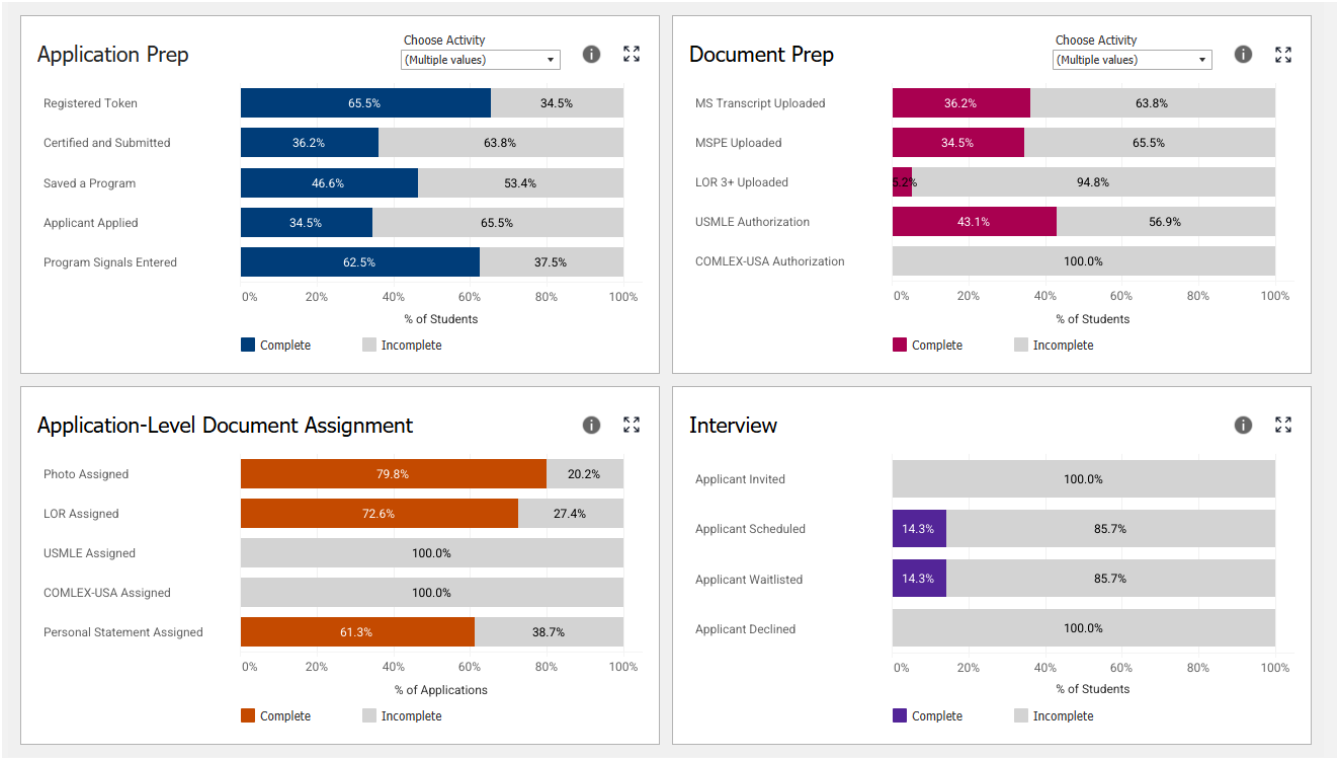
AAMC

DWS Analytics Dashboards

- Student Activity
- Application Package Overview
- Specialty and Program Overview
- Interview
- Application Season Review
- Student Planning

Student Activity

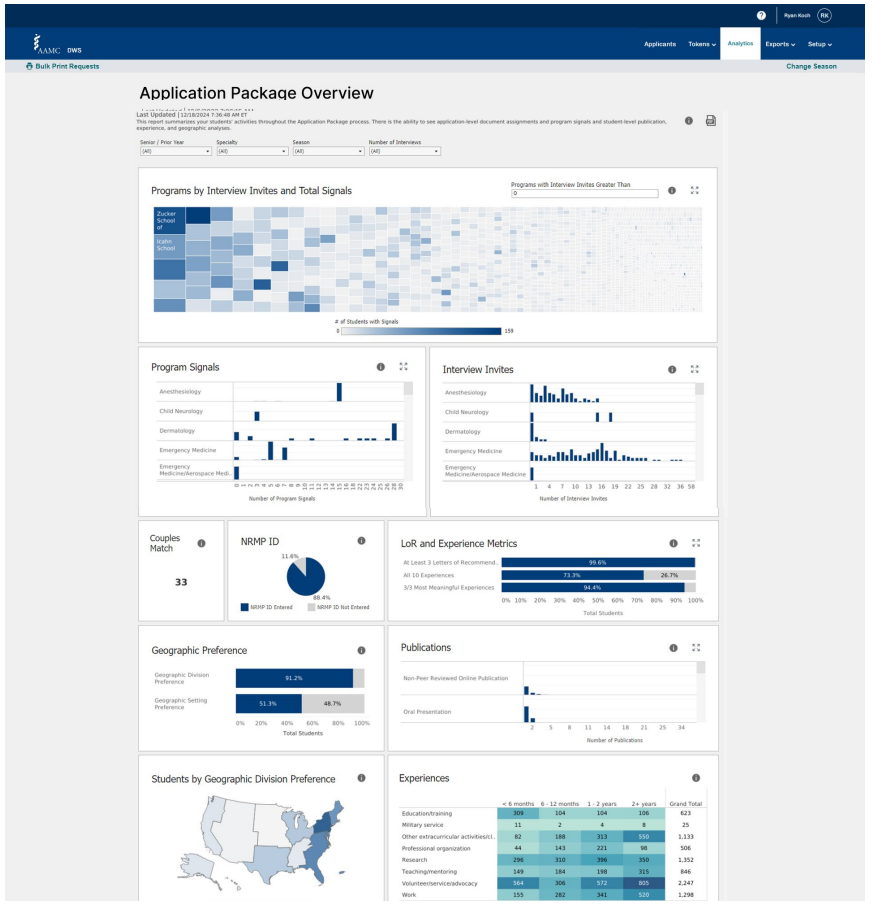
- Shows student progress through the ERAS application season
- Advisors can check:
  - Token Registration Status
  - Application Submission
  - Letters of Recommendation Upload and Assignment
  - Board Score Authorization and Assignment (COMLEX/USMLE)
  - Interview Status
    - Invited
    - Scheduled
    - Waitlisted
    - Declined



AAMC

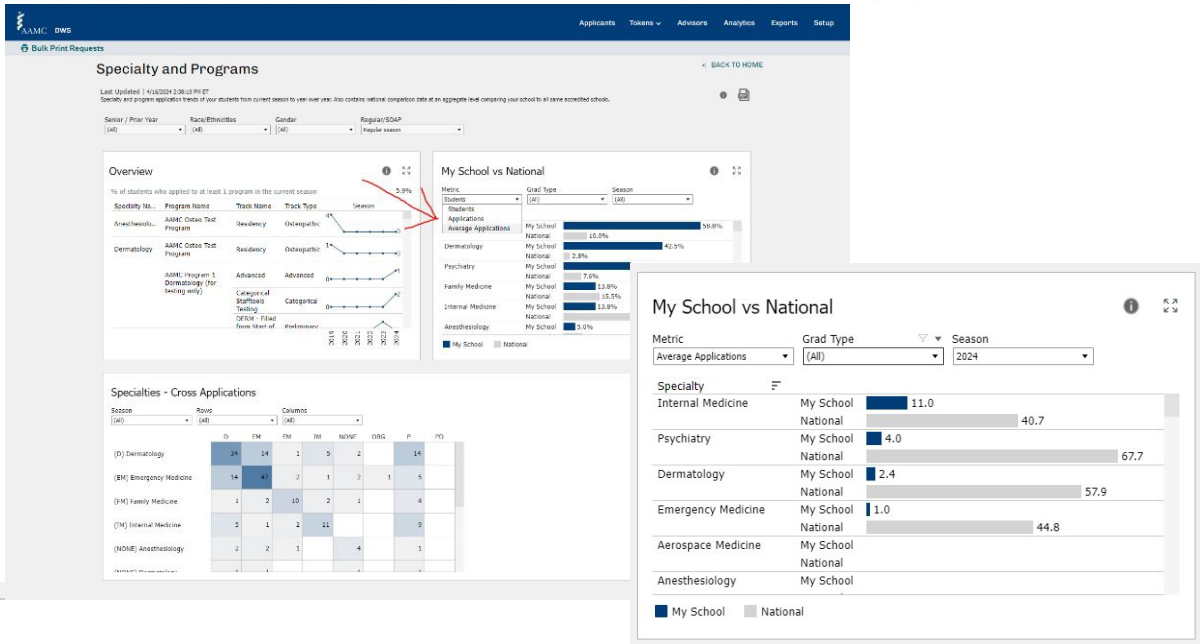
Application Package Overview

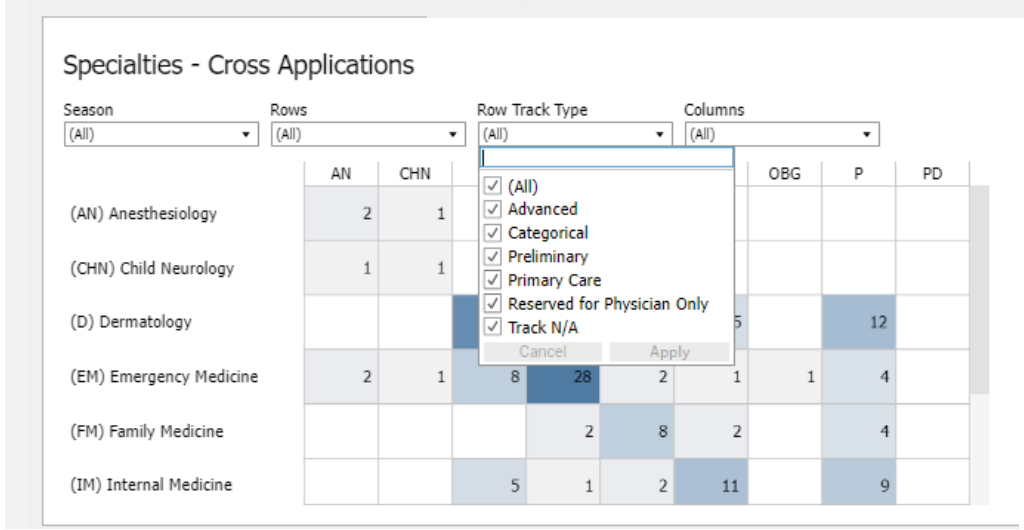
- Includes:
  - Interview counts by specialty
  - Program signal counts by specialty
  - Couples Match participants
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Geographic Division and Setting Preferences
  - Experience Types



Specialty and Program Overview

- The Specialty & Programs dashboard provides several visual ways to view the specialty and program breakdown of student's applications for a single season or all seasons.
- The cross applications visual now provides a filter by track type, allowing you to focus on or remove preliminary tracks.





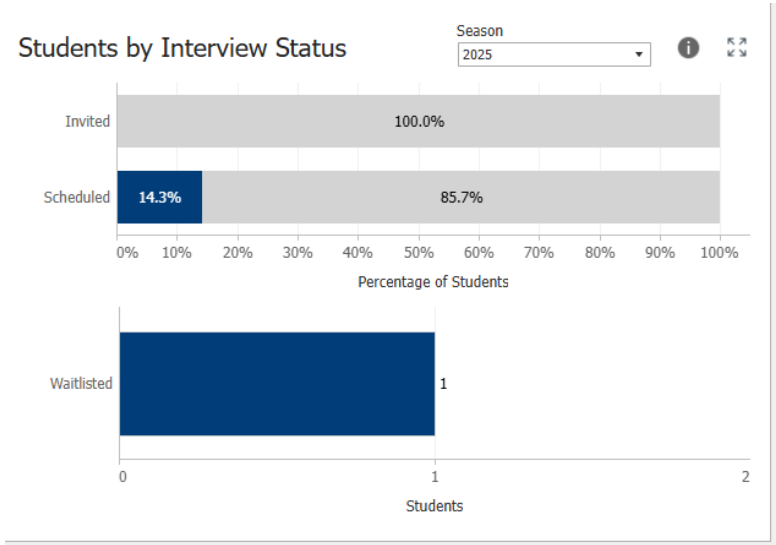
- Use the Metric category to view the Average Applications on the My School vs National card
- Filter by Season

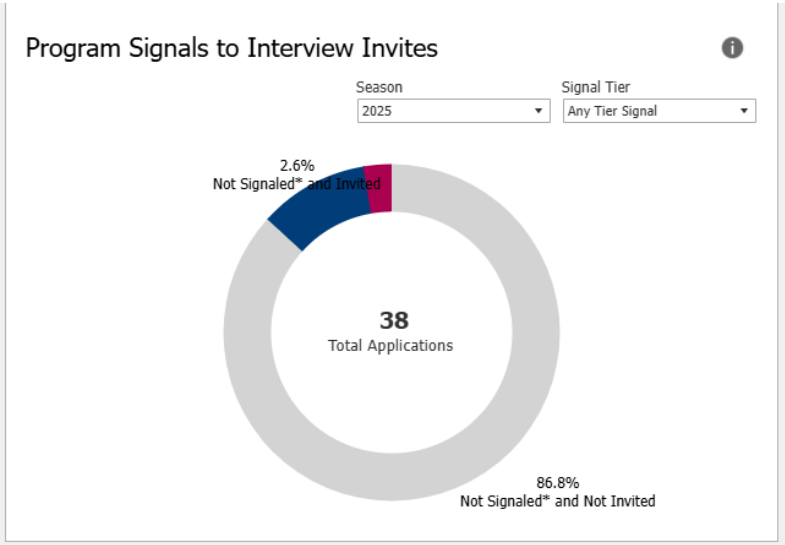
AAMC

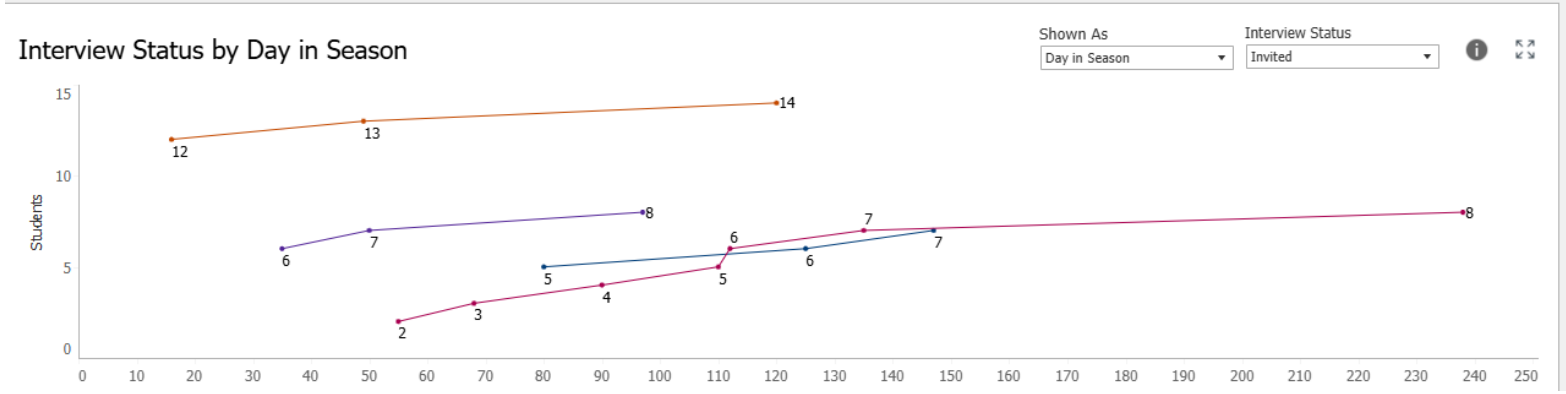
Interview

Includes:

- Percentage of students by interview status
  - Invited
  - Scheduled
  - Waitlisted
- Interview invitation status by program signal status
  - Signaled and invited
  - Not Signaled and invited
  - Signaled and not invited
  - Not signaled and not invited
- Interview status by day in season
- Applicant Demographics



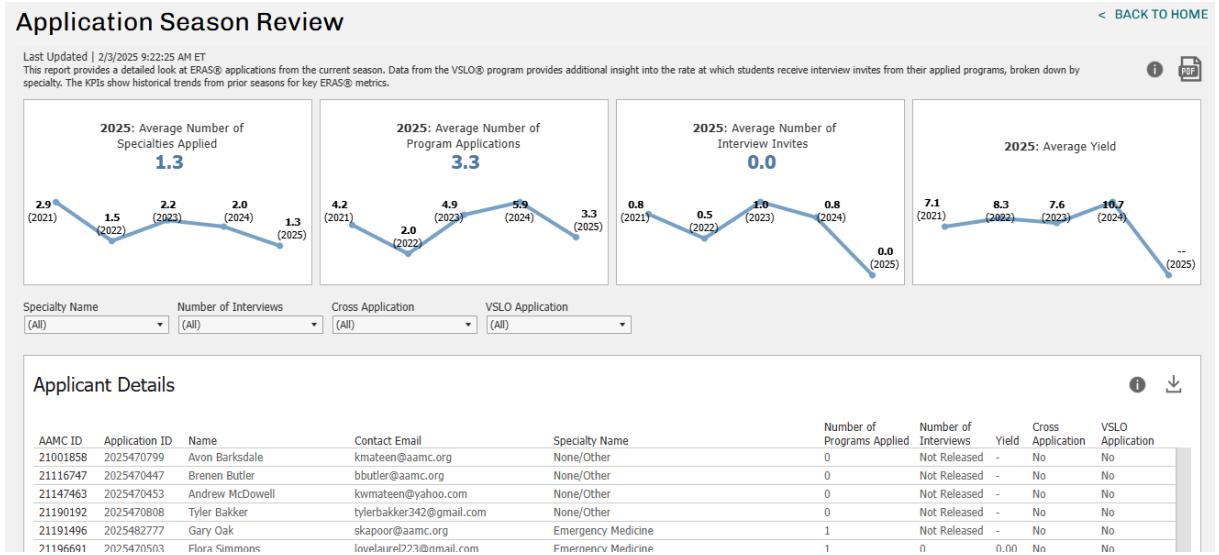




Application Season Review

Includes:

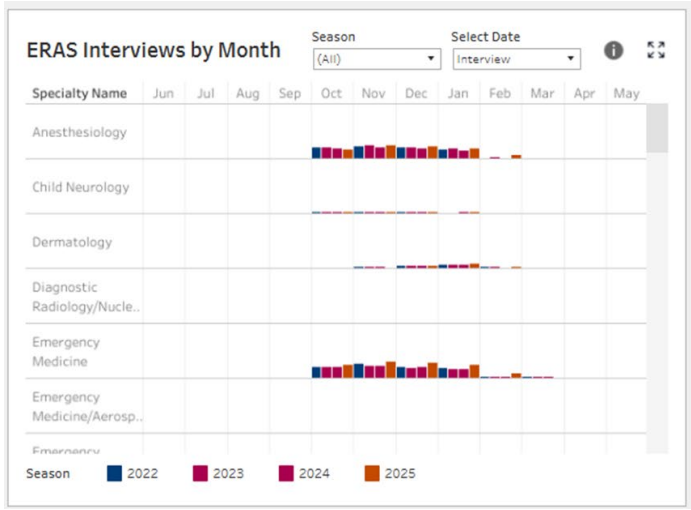
- Line graphs of key data points to review ERAS application season
  - Average Number of Program Applications
  - Average Number of Interview Invites
  - Average Number of Specialties Applied

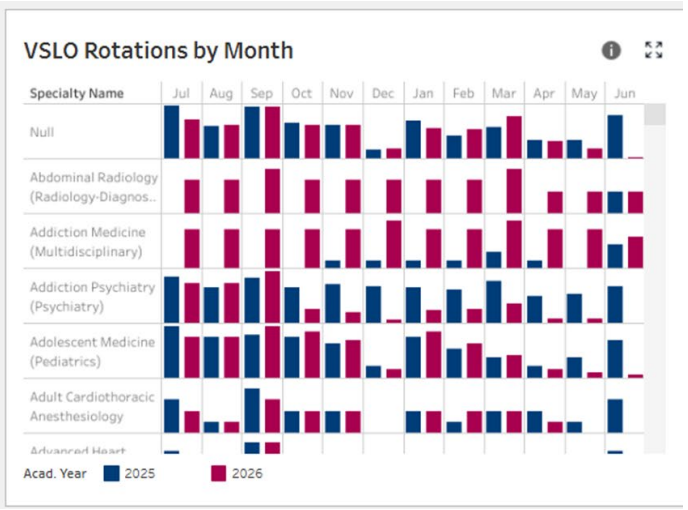


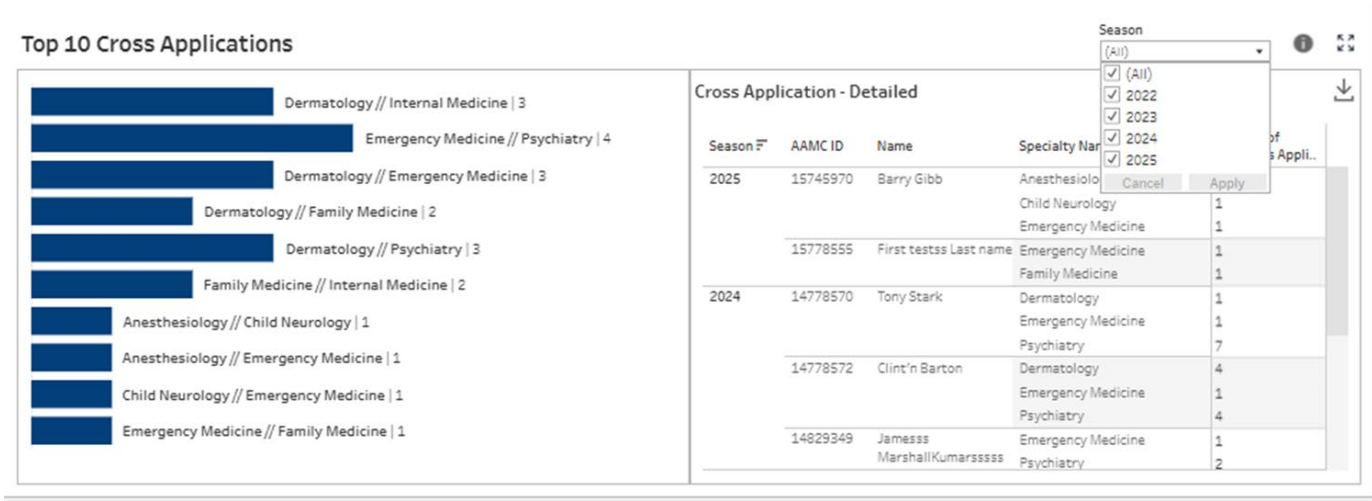
- Applicant Details Dashboard

Student Planning

- View the timing of Interview invites and VSLO offered rotations by Specialty
- View Accepted Electives in VSLO for prior applicants from your institution
- View the Top 10 Cross-Applications by Specialty for your school







AAMC

Key Tips & Takeaways

- The dashboards are interactive! Hover over and click on different part of the dashboard to see more specific details and drill down.
- Click on the informational icons to find additional guidance as you are navigating the dashboard.
- Use the filter drop-down menu options at the top of the dashboards to refine the data view.
- You can download the dashboards into PDF format to share as reports.
    - Make sure to select the correct data source when downloading reports from the dashboards.

DWS Analytics Resources

- Webinar Recordings
- Dashboard Descriptions
- Aggregate and Detailed Export Job Aid
- Interview Report Job Aid
- DWS Analytics Updates

LEARN SERVE LEAD 2025
THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

Q&A

AAMC