

FAQs: (Ob/Gyn)

Given Step 1 is now Pass/Fail, what advice would you give to a first-year medical student about what they can or should be doing early on to be competitive in your specialty?

- We really don't know what will be the new measuring stick for applicants. I assume Step 2 will be heavily scrutinized and there will be a threshold. As an MS1, really focus on the current work in front of you. There is not much you can do at this point in your education to gain an upper hand. Later on, your personal statement, letters of recommendation and real-life experience will be differentiating.

Would you ever take someone with a Step 1 failure?

- No

What advice would you give about getting letters of recommendation in your specialty?

- If you are doing an acting internship or extra rotation within the department. Make sure that you have dedicated time with a staff member (or 2) built into your schedule. Face time for many days is important and gives the staff a fair chance to get to know you and write a good letter. Reach out to a staff member during your core clerkships and establish a mentee/mentor relationship.

What is the value of doing audition rotations in your specialty?

- It depends on how you perform. If you have exceptional scores then an audition is not necessary. Away rotations are very beneficial for the applicant because he/she can truly see the details of the program. Work extra hard, stay late, and come in for extra shifts or take a night call when not scheduled.

To what extent does research, publications, or presentations affect one's ability to match in your specialty?

- You need to have something but multiple publications are not necessary for most programs. If your research is relevant to OBGYN, then many interviewers will likely discuss this with you during the interview. Real life experience is important and stands out in the application. If you had a previous non-medical job or worked through school, be proud of it and share it on the application.

Is a Step 2CK score needed before you will invite someone for an interview?

- Yes

What does the perfect applicant look like in your specialty?

- Someone who is hardworking and a great team member. An exceptional candidate will have a high step 2 score. NBME performance during clerkships will likely be scrutinized more if the scores are available. A great personal statement that shows an insight to you as a candidate is important. Good applicants are easy to talk to during an interview.

Does a student need to Honor in your specialty to match?

- No. It does look much better if you honored most of your clerkships. If you only passed all clerkships, this is likely a reflection of lower NBME performance.

The students have significant elective time during their 3rd year for career exploration.

a. What electives would you recommend to a student who knows they are interested in your specialty?

- Any appealing elective to the student. Spending time with Maternal Fetal Medicine or Gynecologic Oncology can help give you daily exposure to these staff physicians. Might be more helpful in securing a letter of recommendation. Acting internships are great to get exposure to everything and you are more likely to spend a significant time with many residents. Residents do have significant input during the interview season and when choosing applicants.

b. What electives would you recommend to a student who is undecided but considering your specialty?

- Acting internship gives exposure to the entire field.

Is there anything else I haven't asked that you feel an applicant to your specialty ought to know?

- If you are interviewing at a program. You must attend the program dinner (now Zoom meeting) with the residents. If you do not show up for this pre interview time, then you are wasting your time. Not taking time to do this is seen as disinterest in the program.