

# **Residency Directors' Criteria for Prospective Residents**

## **Emergency Medicine**

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# Do you look for a specific Step 1 score?

There isn't a specific score but an above average score is really important. With a score of (approximately) 235 or below, it's highly recommended that the student take Step 2 early (prior to ERAS opening so scores are readily available).

# Do you require Step 2 exam prior to interviewing?

This varies across EM programs. More and more programs like to see it, especially if Step 1 isn't strong (see previous question). Many programs require it before ranking the student. MCW likes it but doesn't require it.

# Is research in the specialty necessary?

Not necessary. Other factors including USMLE scores, EM rotation grades and SLOEs, and clinical grades carry much more weight. In fact, leadership roles are also important and may carry as much weight as research depending on the institution. Caveat: If an applicant is particularly interested in a 4-year program with a focus on research/academic medicine, research may play a more important role.

# Do you recommend more than one rotation in the chosen specialty?

Absolutely. One EM rotation at the home institution and one Away rotation is expected.

Many programs use VSAS, some do not. If a student is interested in a program not listed under VSAS, they should research the program on-line or contact them. Rotations are becoming more competitive and students should apply to more than one and be very conscientious of deadlines and other required materials. Get applications in early for aways!

# **If the applicant is from MCW, do you recommend an away rotation?**

Absolutely. Review the previous question.

If the student wants to leave the Midwest, it's advised that they do an away rotation in the desired area of geographic interest. Ideally the rotation will be between June and September to allow the program to submit a letter ("SLOE" for EM) in time for applications. October is not ideal but should not be considered a "deal breaker" (a rumor among students).

# Any other considerations or factors?

Students should plan interviews for November and December and make their 4th year schedule accordingly. For most, regardless of grades, scores, etc. we recommend a minimum of 8-10 interviews (more depending on the many factors at stake).