



## Recommended Standards for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Application and Interview Processes

The Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology (CREOG) and the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) recommend these specialty-wide standards for the 2021–22 obstetrics and gynecology residency application cycle. These recommendations are based on data collected over the past two interview cycles; discussions at the CREOG retreats; CREOG and APGO meetings; the post-interview match debrief with program directors and managers; and survey feedback provided after the 2020–21 residency application process from applicants, program directors and managers, clerkship directors, deans of student affairs, and the Right Resident, Right Program, Ready Day One project workgroups.

For academic year 2021–22, we request that obstetrics and gynecology program directors adopt the following guidelines:

- Set the application submission deadline to **October 1, 2021** (Applications and MSPEs are available for review by programs on September 29, 2021, in ERAS)
- Release all interview offers on **October 19, 2021** (with rolling offers to follow depending on the response each program receives)
- Limit program interview invitations to the number of interview slots available
- Allow a **minimum of 48 hours** after an interview invitation email has been sent for the applicant to accept or decline
- Begin interviews no earlier than **October 25, 2021**
- Release final status to applicants (interview, reject, waitlist) no later than **November 19, 2021**
- Plan for **virtual interviews** for all applicants, including local students

In addition, the CREOG community will be addressing the following items at the summer CREOG Retreat on July 29–30, 2021:

- **Possible in-person opportunities for applicants.** There is a high likelihood that the COVID-19 pandemic will remain a challenge in the fall. In addition, the results of the 2020–21 match suggested that programs performed just as well, on average, when compared to previous years. Virtual interviews provide more equitable access for all applicants, regardless of means. We will discuss the best way for our specialty to proceed if programs wish to provide an optional in-person component.
- **Developing a formal policy regarding postinterview communication.** Student feedback has consistently shown that the expectation for postinterview feedback places them in an uncomfortable position and the content of postinterview communication from program directors is often open to interpretation and thus potentially misleading. We will discuss possible guidelines for postinterview communication.