



Information Session: Supplemental ERAS Application

Tuesday

August 31, 2021

Timeline

- Email link to the supplemental application will be sent starting 9/1
- Sent to students who had saved or applied to 2 or more programs in Dermatology, Surgery or Internal Medicine
- One may start work on supplemental application outside of system; questions can be found in the “Supplemental ERAS Application Guide”.
- Supplemental applications may be submitted in 2 different timeline windows:
 - Apps submitted 9.1 – 9.19 will be released to programs 9.29
 - Apps submitted 9.20 - 9.30 will be released to programs 10.6

Content of Supplemental Application

- Prior work, volunteering, research
 - Up to 5 meaningful experiences
 - Why each meaningful (up to 300 words for each experience)
 - Other impactful experiences (family, financial, life experiences)
- Geographic preference (Derm and IM Programs only)
 - Regional Preferences
 - Up to 3 geographic regions (up to 300 characters on each region)
 - No regional preference
 - Do not wish to communicate regional preference
 - Setting preferences
 - Urban or rural preference (up to 300 characters on setting preference)
 - No setting preference
 - Slight vs. strong preference scale
- Program Signaling
 - May send signal to programs of particular interest (max. 3 Derm, 5 Surg/Med/Med Prelim)
 - Only seen by programs that you signal
- Work preferences
 - Experimental this year – not released to any programs

Geographic Preference

- Geographic preference expressed
 - Seen only by programs in preferred geo region
 - No information given to programs not in preferred regions
- No geographic preference
 - Programs see that there is no regional preference
- Prefer not to communicate geographic preference
 - No information given to programs not in preferred regions

Resources

- AAMC Supplemental ERAS application website:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/supplementalerasapplication>

- Preparation resources for residency applicants:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/preparation-resources-residency-applicants>

- Supplemental ERAS application guide:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/12326/download>

- AAMC FAQ's:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/frequently-asked-questions-applicants>

Q&A

Q: Should we submit the Supplemental Application by Sept. 19?

A: If you can submit by Sept. 19, you should. This will ensure programs will receive your Supplemental Application on Sept. 29 when applications are released. If you submit your Supplemental Application after Sept. 19, programs will not receive it until Oct. 6, potentially causing a slight delay in when your ERAS application will be reviewed.

Q: If I add programs after submitting my application, will I have to complete a new Supplemental Application?

A: No. The programs you add will receive the Supplemental Application you have submitted already. You CANNOT revise your Supplemental Application after it has been submitted.

Q: Will more programs potentially decide to use the Supplemental Application?

A: No. The list of programs using the Supplemental Application was finalized on August 9th. [The list is available here.](#)

Q&A

Q: Should I try to be strategic with preference signaling or geographic preference when I don't know yet what my rank list will look like? (Internal Medicine)

A: We recommend using preference signaling in the most honest and forthright way, addressing those programs you have the most serious and genuine in. Use preference signals and geographic preferences only if you genuinely have them; do not feel like you need to use all your signals and preferences – only those that are genuine for whatever reason (e.g. family, significant other, etc.). If you cannot offer a solid “why” for your geographic preference, it is better not to signal that preference.

Q: If I don't have a strong personal reason, such as family, child care or a significant other, should I still signal a geographic preference?

A: It could hurt your application if your reason for signaling a geographic preference comes off as frivolous. Be thoughtful about your reasoning when it is less about meaningful personal reasons.

Q&A

Q: Should I send a Preference Signal to NorthShore? Are they considered part of our “home institution?”

A: Because of our partnership with NorthShore, it is likely not necessary to signal NorthShore. They are likely to assume your interest.

Q: Should I send a preference signal to preliminary IM programs in Chicago?

A: Because students often want to either stay in the city where they went to medical school OR want to do preliminary training in the city they hope to do categorical training, you could choose to signal programs in one of those locations.

Q: Do we have to write a “Why” for preference signals to programs?

A: No. You can only provide a brief statement regarding geographic preferences.

Q&A

Q: Should I send my preference signals to the most competitive programs I am interested in?

A: If your genuine interest overlaps with a program that is very competitive, then send a preference signal. Sending a signal to a program that is competitive but with which you are less interested could dilute the process. Again, preference signals should be sent to programs at which you want to express genuine interest in training.

Q: Will it seem weird if I don't include University of Chicago programs in my preference signals?

A: No. The AAMC instructs students NOT to signal their home programs, and program directors have been told this. They are to assume home applicants have strong interest in their home program. It would also not look unusual to other programs that you did not signal Uchicago because programs DO NOT see if/when you have signaled other programs; only if you have signaled their program.

Q: Should we see this as optional?

A: This is optional. Choosing not to participate does not hurt your application, but programs would not get this additional information or your preferences.