

**Rankings of the Importance of Academic Selection Criteria  
from a National Survey of Residency Program Directors, 2006**

1. Grades in required clerkships
2. USMLE Step 1 score
3. Grades in senior electives in specialty
4. Number of honors grades
5. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
7. Class rank
8. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
9. Medical school reputation
10. Medical school academic awards
11. Grades in other senior electives
12. Grades in preclinical courses
13. Published medical school research
14. Research experience while in medical school

By Specialty:

**Plastic Surgery**

1. Recommendation letters
2. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
3. Audition electives
4. Grades in senior electives in Plastic Surgery
5. Published research
6. USMLE Step 1 score
7. Class rank
8. Number of clerkship honors
9. Required clerkship grades
10. Medical school academic awards
11. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
12. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
13. Medical school reputation
14. Grades in preclinical courses
15. Grades in other senior electives
16. Dean's letter

**Orthopedic surgery**

1. Audition electives
2. USMLE Step 1 score
3. Required clerkship grades
4. Number of clerkship honors

5. Grades in senior electives in ORTHO
6. Recommendation letters
7. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
8. Class rank
9. Medical school academic awards
10. Grades in preclinical courses
11. Published research
12. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
13. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Medical school reputation
16. Dean's letter

### **Otolaryngology**

1. USMLE Step 1 score
2. Grades in senior electives in Otolaryngology
3. Number of clerkship honors
4. Required clerkship grades
5. Recommendation letters
6. Class rank
7. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
8. Audition electives
9. Published research
10. Grades in preclinical courses
11. Medical school academic awards
12. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
13. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
14. Medical school reputation
15. Grades in other senior electives
16. Dean's letter

### **Ophthalmology**

1. Recommendation letters
2. USMLE Step 1 score
3. Number of clerkship honors
4. Required clerkship grades
5. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
6. Grades in senior electives in OPHTHO
7. Class rank
8. Medical school academic awards
9. Published research
10. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
11. Medical school reputation
12. Audition electives

13. Grades in other senior electives
14. Grades in preclinical courses
15. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
16. Dean's letter

### **Radiology**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. Number of clerkship honors
3. USMLE Step 1 score
4. Class rank
5. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
6. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
7. Recommendation letters
8. Grades in senior electives in Radiology
9. Medical school reputation
10. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
11. Medical school academic awards
12. Grades in preclinical courses
13. Published research
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Audition electives
16. Dean's letter

### **Radiation Oncology**

1. Recommendation letters
2. Published research
3. USMLE Step 1 score
4. Audition electives
5. Required clerkship grades
6. Grades in senior electives in Rad. Oncology
7. Medical school reputation
8. Number of clerkship honors
9. Class rank
10. Medical school academic awards
11. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
12. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
13. Grades in preclinical courses
14. Dean's letter
15. Grades in other senior electives
16. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass

### **Neurosurgery**

1. USMLE Step 1 score
2. Recommendation letters
3. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
4. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
5. Required clerkship grades
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
7. Class rank
8. Grades in senior electives in Neurosurgery
9. Published research
10. Audition electives
11. Number of clerkship honors
12. Medical school academic awards
13. Grades in preclinical courses
14. Medical school reputation
15. Grades in other senior electives
16. Dean's letter

### **Emergency Medicine**

1. Grades in senior electives in EM
2. Recommendation letters
3. Required clerkship grades
4. Audition electives
5. Number of clerkship honors
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
7. Class rank
8. USMLE Step 1 score
9. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
10. Medical school reputation
11. Grades in other senior electives
12. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
13. Dean's letter
14. Medical school academic awards
15. Published research
16. Grades in preclinical courses

### **Urology**

1. USMLE Step 1 score
2. Required clerkship grades
3. Recommendation letters
4. Number of clerkship honors
5. Grades in senior electives in Urology
6. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
7. Audition electives
8. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score

9. Class rank
10. Published research
11. Grades in preclinical courses
12. Medical school academic awards
13. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Medical school reputation
16. Dean's letter

### **Dermatology**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. Grades in senior electives in DERM
3. Recommendation letters
4. USMLE Step 1 score
5. Number of clerkship honors
6. Class rank
7. Audition electives
8. Published research
9. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
10. Medical school academic awards
11. Grades in preclinical courses
12. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
13. Medical school reputation
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
16. Dean's letter

### **General Surgery**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. USMLE Step 1 score
3. Recommendation letters
4. Number of clerkship honors
5. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
7. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
8. Grades in senior electives in Gen. Surgery
9. Class rank
10. Grades in preclinical courses
11. Medical school reputation
12. Audition electives
13. Published research
14. Medical school academic awards
15. Dean's letter
16. Grades in other senior electives

### **Anesthesiology**

1. USMLE Step 1 score
2. Required clerkship grades
3. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
4. Grades in senior electives in Anesthesiology
5. Recommendation letters
6. Number of clerkship honors
7. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
8. Class rank
9. Audition electives
10. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
11. Grades in preclinical courses
12. Medical school academic awards
13. Medical school reputation
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Dean's letter
16. Published research

### **Pediatrics**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. Recommendation letters
3. Grades in senior electives in Pediatrics
4. Number of clerkship honors
5. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
6. Audition electives
7. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
8. Class rank
9. USMLE Step 1 score
10. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
11. Dean's letter
12. Grades in other senior electives
13. Medical school reputation
14. Medical school academic awards
15. Grades in preclinical courses
16. Published research

### **Obstetrics-Gynecology**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
3. USMLE Step 1 score
4. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score

5. Number of clerkship honors
6. Recommendation letters
7. Grades in senior electives in OB/GYN
8. Medical school reputation
9. Audition electives
10. Class rank
11. Dean's letter
12. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
13. Medical school academic awards
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Grades in preclinical courses
16. Published research

### **Psychiatry**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
3. Audition electives
4. Recommendation letters
5. Grades in senior electives in Psychiatry
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
7. Number of clerkship honors
8. USMLE Step 1 score
9. Medical school reputation
10. Dean's letter
11. Class rank
12. Published research
13. Medical school academic awards
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
16. Grades in preclinical courses

### **Pathology**

1. Recommendation letters
2. Grades in senior electives in Pathology
3. USMLE Step 1 score
4. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
5. Audition electives
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
7. Class rank
8. Required clerkship grades
9. Medical school reputation
10. Medical school academic awards
11. Number of clerkship honors
12. Grades in preclinical courses

13. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
14. Published research
15. Grades in other senior electives
16. Dean's letter

### **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

1. Grades in senior electives in PM&R
2. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
3. Recommendation letters
4. Required clerkship grades
5. USMLE Step 1 score
6. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
7. Audition electives
8. Number of clerkship honors
9. Class rank
10. Medical school reputation
11. Grades in other senior electives
12. Grades in preclinical courses
13. Dean's letter
14. Medical school academic awards
15. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
16. Published research

### **Internal medicine**

1. Required clerkship grades
2. Number of clerkship honors
3. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
4. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
5. Class rank
6. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
7. Recommendation letters
8. Grades in senior electives in Internal Medicine
9. USMLE Step 1 score
10. Audition electives
11. Medical school reputation
12. Dean's letter
13. Medical school academic awards
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Grades in preclinical courses
16. Published research

### **Neurology**



1. Recommendation letters
2. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
3. Required clerkship grades
4. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
5. USMLE Step 1 score
6. Grades in senior electives in Neurology
7. Number of clerkship honors
8. Audition electives
9. Medical school reputation
10. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
11. Class rank
12. Published research
13. Medical school academic awards
14. Grades in other senior electives
15. Grades in preclinical courses
16. Dean's letter

### **Family Medicine**

1. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills pass
2. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge score
3. Audition electives
4. Required clerkship grades
5. Grades in senior electives in Family Medicine
6. Recommendation letters
7. USMLE Step 1 score
8. Number of clerkship honors
9. Grades in other senior electives
10. Medical school reputation
11. Dean's letter
12. Class rank
13. Grades in preclinical courses
14. Medical school academic awards
15. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha
16. Published research

Source:

### **Selection Criteria for Residency: Results of a National Program Directors Survey**

Marianne Green, MD, Paul Jones, MD, and John X. Thomas, Jr., PhD

Acad Med. 2009; 84:362–367.