

Post Match Reporting

2017/2018 Match Cohort* Data

Specialty: Surgery
N= 10 (3.2% match cohort)

Item	N	% of specialty cohort	Mean	Standard Deviation
Graduation year				
2017	4	40.0%		
2018	6	60.0%		
Three digit Step 1 score			251.1	5.9
MSPE Adjective:				
Outstanding	5	50.0%		
Superior	3	30.0%		
Excellent	2	20.0%		
Very Good	0	0.0%		
Good	0	0.0%		
AOA elected	2	20.0 %		
Applied to preliminary or transitional programs:	0	0.0%		
Other specialties applied to:				
Anesthesiology				
Radiology-Diagnostic				
Number of categorical programs applied to			45.0	24.1
Honors Received:				
Anesthesia	4	40.0%		
FCM	3	30.0%		
Internal Medicine	4	40.0%		
Neurology	7	70.0%		
Obstetrics/Gynecology	3	30.0%		
Pediatrics	7	70.0%		
Psychiatry	4	40.0%		
Surgery	10	100.0%		

*Match Cohort includes applicants who matched into this specialty via the regular match process.

Post Match Reporting

2017/2018 Survey Respondent Cohort Data

Specialty: Surgery

N= 9 (3.8% survey respondents)

Item	N	% of specialty cohort	Mean	Standard Deviation	Min	Max
How many programs invited you to interview?			19.4	6.1	10	33
How many interviews did you accept?			14.1	5.2	8	26
Did you review your application with a career advisor before applying?	8	88.9%				
Before ranking programs, did you review your rank list with a career advisor?	7	77.8%				
Total Spent on Interviews						
\$0-\$500	1	11.1%				
\$501-\$1000	0	0.0%				
\$1001-\$2000	0	0.0%				
\$2001-\$3000	3	33.3%				
\$3001-\$4000	3	33.3%				
>\$4000	2	22.2%				
Did you complete a Pathway project?	3	33.3%				
Did you complete a research project in the field you matched?	6	66.7%				
Did you have a publication during medical school?	5	55.6%				

The field project was in:

Breast Oncology Disparities

Digital health tools for elders

liver transplant

Surgery

Surgery, health services research

Transplant Immunology w/ Dr. Peter Stock

Describe any publications:

Program evaluation of a community health worker intervention in Western Kenya

Description of UCSF educational intervention that would eventually become the Bridges Clinical Microsystems

4 first author, 3 first author in submission, 3 others

EM and neurology health services research

Medical Education

One peer-reviewed original research article based on Master's thesis work. One invited commentary with research mentor.

**Who was your most effective career advisor in field matched?
(number of multiple mentions)**

Andre Campbell (6)

Nancy Ascher (4)

Hobart Harris

Elizabeth Wick

Kimberly Kirkwood

Rochelle Dicker

What were your most useful career resources?

Frieda (AAMC), program websites, residents

Graduating 4th years! Surgery Interns!

I didn't really find any of the official resources to be particularly helpful (other than the specialty-specific career advisor) as they don't know many specifics based on specialty and will really only give you the same advice you could get from googling how you should pick a residency. Also, I felt that the number suggestions (how many to apply to, how many interviews, how many to rank, etc) were the exact same for every person in my specialty and not tailored to strength of the application, so, get a sense from people before you who were similar applicants how many they really needed to apply to in order to get the number of interviews you need.

I think the most useful resources were other applicants and recent UCSF graduates in general surgery programs across the country. The UCSF faculty are very helpful for generating your list and refining it based on potential sub-specialties of general surgery you may be considering. I found the post-match reports to be incredibly helpful as well.

Prior applicants. Assistant Program director here at UCSF

If you had to do anything differently in the residency matching process, what would it be?

Anticipate costs more realistically - I ended up needing to take more loans to cover expenses after interview season. Fourth year is expensive! Between Step 2, interviews, etc. expenses really add up. Plan for more \$\$ than you think you might need.

Apply to fewer programs

Apply to fewer programs!

I am not sure how beneficial it is to tell programs they are your number one. I think there is a lot of pressure to do so prior to submitting your list, but if you are still considering programs don't let any institutions pressure you. Also, there is still a culture of programs reaching out to applicants, so I would have gotten better advice on how to handle that.

I would have considered away rotations more strongly. I think they give you a broader perspective on whatever field you are going in to. I felt a bit less knowledgeable about surgery overall than other applicants as I only had my UCSF experience to lean on.

I would not have applied to "safety" program as most of them never even got back to me about an interview likely because they assumed I would not attend. If you are likely going to be interviewing at mostly top 10 schools maybe diversify to the top 30-40, but if you go beyond that, they'll see through it and it's just a waste of time and money. I also would have reached out to graduates in my specialty much earlier than I did. This was the most helpful information that I got and I wish I had made my original list off of this. You can't really tell much about programs based off their websites and there are limited hard facts that will realistically affect your decision (perhaps the rank and some schools that have a skewed gender balance...which to me is a sign of something being off) but current residents who went through the interview process can give you some idea of places they liked and why and places they didn't like and that can help guide your decisions more. Everyone was really willing to talk to me once I reached out, but I waited to do it until after interviews and I regret not doing it earlier. People will also give a balanced opinion about their own program and whether it might be a good fit for me as well as other places they interviewed at. I felt like they weren't just trying to talk me into their institution, but would have a more honest conversation about pros and cons of different programs.

Reach out to more programs to address perceived lack of interest based on geography.

Would have met with more of the UCSF surgery "brass" before applying. Would have maybe done traditional 3rd year rather than KLIC.

Would maybe do an away. Keep better notes during the interview trail.

Is there any other information helpful to UCSF students who will apply to your specialty choice in the future?

Away rotations are an underrated resource!

By the fact that you have UCSF attached to your name, you are inherently going to be somewhat sought after. Even if you feel like a mediocre candidate (I did), you probably are a stronger candidate than you think. I was surprised to get interviews at virtually every program that I wanted to go to and at the end of it all during my final conversations with programs, both of my top two told me I would match there if I so desired. This is not to say that everyone will necessarily match at their top program, BUT that you will be a stronger candidate than you think, you WILL get interviews, and you WILL have great options that will be hard to choose between at the end of it all. The amount of stress that this process causes is so unnecessary...you have more power than the programs- it is truly an applicant-favored match. Also, it's VERY easy to get swept up in rankings. Certainly go to a good program that is going to set you up to do what you want to do in the future and open doors for you. But general surgery is LONG and many people drop out during residency. Go to a program where you are going to be happy. Because at the end of the day, if you don't finish residency, it doesn't matter what potential fellowships your program could have opened doors for. Think about what you want your life to look like when you are a senior resident. Will you have kids then? Will you be married? Will you want to own a house or live in an apartment? Be near family? Be in a big city with tons to do or a smaller town that feels calmer when you leave work? Don't wait to live your life until after all your training is done, this is your life and take that into account when you think about programs. As people will tell you on the interview trail, general surgery residency is hard but it doesn't have to suck. Go somewhere where it will be a great 5-7 years. Even though it seems insane (and it is), actually be neurotic about getting back to programs about interviews IMMEDIATELY (by that I mean, try to have your reply sent to them within 20 minutes of receiving the invite). I know people who got boxed out of interviewing at a program they were interested in because they didn't respond in time. That would be such an unfortunate reason not to go to the program of your dreams. It's SO dumb, but consider actually having a separate tone/vibration for a separate interview e-mail address with push notifications and keep your phone on you. Have someone manage your e-mail while you are on a plane or otherwise unable to access your e-mail. It is ABSURD but if you live in denial about the ridiculousness and decide you refuse to be attached to your device, you may miss out on invites, so be prepared for that possibility.

Speak with a career advisor early. Also, meet with various people in your specialty so that folks can get to know you early on in your process. I was a bit intimidated to meet with attendings, but realized that they were happy I was interested in surgery and wanted to help. I wondered "what do I talk about with these attendings!?" Having a clear idea of 'why surgery' is important, but beyond that try asking open-ended questions about their careers, advice on choosing a residency program, or what they look for in a trainee. Talking with residents is also a great resource. Also, consider taking some time in your schedule (summer of 4th year) to work on your application. I had a month of research during which I worked on my research project, but also had time to work on my residency application.

There are many more opportunities for research in surgery than some official school documents would lead you to believe. Many of our surgeons have great basic science and clinical research labs and are happy to take on students who are interested and able if you just reach out to them. Specifically, Peter Stock is a great person to talk to about getting involved with research as he coordinates research for all of the Residents.