



Family Medicine Virtual Interview Season Survey: Student Perspectives SUMMARY

1. The majority of students use residency program websites when choosing where to apply
 - Students request updates applicable to the 2020 virtual interview season, including announcement of upcoming events, resident bios, virtual video tours, and updated application information.
2. Less students report using social media as a primary tool for residency selection, however many find highlights and "resident takeovers" helpful.
3. The majority of students prefer one-on-one Zoom meetings as their top choice video platform for interview day. Responses indicate that interactions with current residents are a top priority on interview day.
4. Many students (91%) indicate interest in pre- and post- interview day events that would allow them to get to know residents in informal ways.

updated 9/24/20 (survey open since 9/4/20)

194 student responses (158 MS4 students)

Representing 70+ medical schools throughout the US and including IMG



Results section 1: what resources do students use to choose where to apply

The majority (92%) report using the residency program website to choose where to apply

67% use the AAFP national conference

74% use FRIEDA online

51% use residency program social media

Other resources include AAFP strolling through the match, Doximity, residency explorer tool (AAMC) , online events hosted by residency programs, Texas STAR data, and perspectives from friends/ colleagues/ current residents



Results section 2: student perspectives on the residency program WEBSITE

74% of students report that the website is either very or extremely valuable when choosing programs to which they will apply

The most valuable WEBSITE components include the following (in order)

1. Curriculum overview/ timeline
2. Listing of hospital/ training sites
3. Statement of program strengths
4. Resident bios with photos
5. Video testimonials/ Tour
6. Program diversity
7. Quality of website
8. “About the area” section
9. Alumni bios with photos

Highlights from student free response:

“include videos of resident area call rooms, didactic spaces, etc.”

“We want to see what the residents look like and what their interests are in their own words.”

“Clear descriptions about unique training opportunities (#OB deliveries, opportunities for procedure training, global health/service opportunities)”



Results section 3: student perspectives on the residency program SOCIAL MEDIA

40% of students report that social media is either very or extremely valuable when choosing programs to which they will apply

For students that utilize social media, the following platforms are the most popular (in order)

1. Instagram (66%)
2. Facebook (48%)
3. Twitter (35%)
4. LinkedIn (9%)

Highlights from student free response:

*A subset of students do not use social media at all and request that similar information be posted on program websites for reference



Results section 3 (con't): student perspectives on the residency program SOCIAL MEDIA

The most valuable SOCIAL MEDIA components include the following (in order)

1. Behind the scenes of residency life (“resident takeover”)
2. Live videos of facilities
3. Current resident bios
4. Saved stories (archived for future reference)
5. Faculty highlights

Highlights from student free response:

“Led by the residents so we can get the true scoop is best!”

“Show us a day in the life (hospital campus, surrounding area, recreation)”

“Wherever content is offered, it's very useful if it is viewable on demand, since students' schedules don't always permit live viewing.”



Results section 4: student perspectives on the residency program INTERVIEW DAY

86% of students prefer Zoom as their top preference for video conferencing

Regarding pre-interview events;

47% prefer zoom “dinner” with resident the night before

18% prefer zoom “breakfast” with residents the day of

26% prefer either

Other suggestions: consider reimbursing students for a meal but offering a happy hour/ resident get together instead of eating a meal on screen.

Highlights from student free response:

“Anything where residents are most comfortable, putting their best most informal selves forward”

“informal lunch the day of”

“Important to have one option, but don't overload with too many events, as zoom can be exhausting.”

“Eating on zoom feels awkward and unnecessary”



Results section 4 (con't): student perspectives on the residency program INTERVIEW DAY

Regarding program video length; The majority request that video length be less than 10 min

Aspects of virtual interview most important to students (in order)

1. Interactions with current residents (98%)
2. Interactions with faculty (83%)
3. Tour of primary facilities (80%)
4. Interactions with interprofessional team members (36%)

80% of students prefer one-on-one interviews over panel interviews

86% of students recommend interview length 15-30 minutes

91% of students prefer additional contact points outside of interview day (ie. mock morning report, virtual happy hours, "first look" virtual sessions, invitation to grand rounds, etc)



Results section 4 (con't): student perspectives on the residency program INTERVIEW DAY

Other suggestions: consider small group sessions for virtual video tour of facilities with live resident narration to point out key features (if prerecorded)

Highlights from student free response:

“If you do host virtual events before interview day (e.g. "open houses"), please schedule some of them for weekends/evenings- many of us are still on rotations and cannot attend afternoon sessions.”

“The only thing about the group zoom videos is not really being able to talk. Maybe would be good to break up into small groups and rotate for any of the gatherings (breakfast/dinner, virtual happy hour, etc)”

“low key open houses are super helpful”

“for students in different time zones, consider a better, fairer, less-stressful system of signing up for interview dates.

” Be clear with alternate ways to contact the program on the day of the interview should the link to the interview not work the morning of.”



Closing notes:

Share the survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAFPStudentSurvey>

Follow @pafpandf on Instagram for continuing updates!

Follow @virtualfmmatch on Instagram and promote your program through their stories. They are currently offering for programs to schedule “Instagram takeover” dates to reach more applicants (currently their account is at 749 followers) as well as reposting your virtual open houses and events!

***Don't forget to update websites per overwhelming student recommendations!

Sincerely,

Kara McClain, UPSOM '21

PAFP student and resident leadership